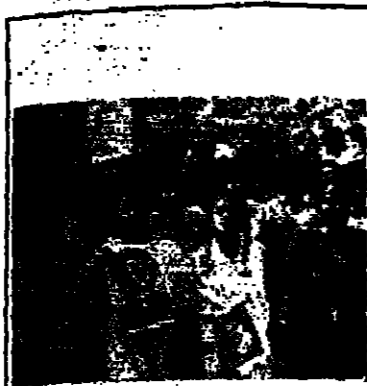


Suspect
ongers
er Claims



Student Supporters of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Ruling Awami League March Nov. 13 with Portraits of Country's Founding Father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Page 15

IRAN NEWS

Three Heads of the Collegiate Bosnian Leadership, Are Welcomed by French Foreign Minister, Herve de Charette (C), Nov. 13



VOL. III, No. 605 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Saturday November 16, 1996, Aban 26, 1375, Rajab 4, 1417

German Ambassador Summoned to Hear Strong Protest

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Hurst Bachmann, Germany's ambassador to Tehran,



BACHMANN

was Thursday summoned to the Foreign Ministry. He was notified of Iran's strong protest to the recent insults, baseless allegations and false reports of the German judicial officials

See Page 13

Habibi Urged Worldwide Cooperation for Increased Food Production

BY KHOSROW SOLTANI

ROME, ITALY - Iran's First Vice President Hassan Habibi yesterday reiterated the need for serious and practical international cooperation in order to reach sustainable production and fair distribution of food with an emphasis on backing the vulnerable groups of society - especially women and children - in the less-developed countries.

He also declared Iran's readiness to step toward the realization of this all-inclusive goal which he said "stands as the pillar of sustainable development and, as a consequence, permanent peace."

Addressing the World Food Summit here, the vice president regretted that obstacles such as hegemony, monopoly of agricultural technologies, uneven distribution of resources, unbridled consumption, prodigality, materialism and negligence of spiritual values in planning development policies have so far hindered man from overcoming hunger and pov-



HABIBI

erty. Looking into the future, Habibi said the threat was that "the disproportional exploitation of primary ecological potentials would compound social damages, food insecurity, environmental transience and, alongside other factors, would give rise to disastrous famines."

However, he noted, today's world has enough knowledge and resources needed for the elimina-

tion of these two ominous outcomes.

"Man's release from poverty, hunger, and malnutrition would be actualized with the global community's goal-oriented and concerted action, both physical and spiritual. The duty shouldered by this summit and the role of international and specialized organizations is to help recognize the factors which limit sustainable development, to allow proposition and establishment of efficacy in scientific and moral approaches, to crush the monopolies of technology, food production and distribution the world over so as to insure sustainable food security."

"In this era, the problem of food is a worldwide and international complexity, and the presence of nearly one billion hungry and malnutrition-stricken men among the world population of six billion despite the fairly enough existing resources is a real shame and disgrace. The global community expects that practical and

promising results be submitted by this summit that could help realize the minimum acceptable food security within the framework of some short and medium-term programs in order to convert "permanent hunger" into "sustainable food security."

I. Political and Moral Measures

A. Paying careful attention to human dignity and virtues and taking into consideration the spiritual values when adopting economic policies so as to alleviate poverty and practically supporting vulnerable groups while observing their self-esteem.

B. Abandoning all political and economic considerations and ill-will as regards food production, trade, and the pertinent technologies and know-how; breaking the monopolies in the field of new agricultural technologies; condemning, in reality and internationally, the application of food sanction against countries; de-

See Page 13

Rowhani Briefs Robinson on Iran Bids for Peace

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Vice Speaker Hojjatoleslam Hassan Rowhani



ROWHANI

met Irish President Mary Robinson in Dublin on Thursday. He emphasized the necessity for the expansion of Tehran-Dublin relations in various political, economic and cultural aspects.

See Page 13

Pak Afghan Policy to Be Changed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The new government in Islamabad will change its policy of what was in practice during the ousted government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, according to a report from Pakistan.

A BBC World News report yesterday said the interim government of Premier Malik Meraj Khalid has decided not to play high profile role in Afghan dispute.

The 11-day-old government has no intention of resuming the shuttle diplomacy to mediate a cease-fire between the Taliban Islamic militia and the forces of Afghanistan's President

Burhanuddin Rabbani. The News, a Pakistan daily, said, according to Reuters.

The Khalid government has "no immediate plan to send an emissary to Afghanistan" for talks with warring factions or invite rival Afghan leaders for an intra-

NEWS ANALYSIS

Afghan dialogue, it said.

The key player in Afghan affair was former Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar who undertook repeated trips to the Taliban headquarters in southwestern Afghanistan's Kandahar city and the ex-government's key ally Abdul Rashid Dostam's base in northern

Mazar-i-Sharif.

Babar's efforts to secure a cease-fire stumbled on Rabbani's main Commander Ahmad Shah Masood's insistence on the demilitarization of Kabul, which the Taliban seized from his forces on September 27.

The newspaper said the caretaker government preferred to wait for results of peace efforts by the U.N. special envoy to Afghanistan Norbert Hoil.

A German diplomat, Hoil is trying to bring the warring factions to the negotiating table. Last week he held talks with the Taliban's so-called Acting Foreign

See Page 13

Jets Bomb Herat Airport as Refugees Flood the City

HERAT, AFGHANISTAN (AP) - Jets belonging to northern warlord Rashid Dostam bombed the airport in western Herat yesterday, while thousands of people, many of them women and children, arrived at makeshift camps set up on the outskirts of the city.

Most of the homeless have fled the fighting in western Badkhis Province between Dostam's soldiers and Taliban religious warriors, who control roughly two-thirds of the country, including

See Page 13

Habibi Meets Foreign Dignitaries

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

ROME, ITALY - Iran's First Vice President Dr. Hassan Habibi, who is here to attend the World Food Summit, met with a number of world leaders on the sidelines of the summit.

Habibi met with the Indonesian President Suharto, Ireland's Prime Minister John Bruton, Kuwaiti State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Abdel Aziz Dakheel al-Dakheel and Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karouis as well as the Syrian and Moroccan prime ministers.

International issues, including the Afghan crisis, were among topics at the centerpiece of discussions between Habibi and Indonesian President Suharto yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Habibi said the international community should continue to recognize the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

The two leaders also discussed cooperation within the context of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Habibi said promotion of political, economic, and cultural ties between Iran and Indonesia as two important Islamic states can help further the relations and cooperation among other Muslim countries.

He also urged Islamic states to play a greater and more active role in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Meanwhile, Ireland's prime

minister and the current European Union troika Chairman, John Bruton called for continuation of the "critical dialogue" between Iran and the EU.

Habibi told Bruton that EU members had taken different stances toward the trend of the Iran-EU dialogue under different conditions. This, Habibi said, was due to the fact that the EU members did not have a common defini-

See Page 13

ust Rebound
ouble Blow

Hebron Talks Bog down Over "Hot Pursuit"

JERUSALEM (AFP) - After a week of high hopes that Israelis and Palestinians would finally sign a deal to share power in Hebron, negotiations bogged down in mutual mistrust yesterday over Israel's demand for broad "hot pursuit" rights across the West Bank city, officials said.

A late night round of talks led by Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal adviser, Yitzhak Molkho, ended inconclusively, officials from both sides said.

"Unfortunately until now there has been no progress," Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday morning in the Gaza Strip.

Officials said the primary sticking point remained Israel's insistence that its troops retain the

right to enter Hebron zones due to be handed over to Palestinian police whenever they fear radicals could be planning attacks on Jewish settlers or visitors in the city.

The Palestinians insist that any such action be coordinated with their security forces, saying unilateral "hot pursuit" rights violate the terms of self-rule as defined under the Oslo Accords.

The failure of Thursday night's meeting dashed hopes that a Hebron agreement could be presented to Netanyahu's Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday and further negotiations were not expected before Sunday.

Under the Oslo agreement signed by Israel's previous Labor government, Israel was to withdraw its troops from some 80 percent of Hebron in March, leaving



forces behind only in the fifth of the city where 400 Jewish settlers live.

But when Netanyahu came to power in June he demanded amendments to the plan to improve security guarantees for the settlers.

After weeks of talks, the He-

bron redeployment appeared imminent Wednesday when Netanyahu canceled a planned trip to the United States at the last minute, citing "encouraging" progress.

But subsequent negotiations bogged down with both sides

See Page 13

SUMMARY



Between Two Moments

Page 10



Rybkin in Chechnya

Page 14



A 0-0 Friendly

Page 16

IRAN

Managing Director: MOHAMMAD SOLTANIFAR
Editor-in-Chief: MORTEZA FIROOZI
Editorial Dept. Tel: (0098-21) 888 0231-2, 878 9785
Telex: 216955 INNS IR
ISSN 1024-6053
Fax: (0098-21) 878 6475
Public Relations Tel/Fax: 878 6475
Electronic Access Tel: (0098-21) 878 9784
P.O. Box: 15115-653
No. 41, Lida St., Vali-e Asr Ave,
North of Vanak Sq., Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed in Kayhan

EDITORIAL

Let Caspian Remain a Sea of Peace

A one-day conference of the Caspian Sea foreign ministers convened Tuesday in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, and issued a communique after discussions and deliberations.

This was the first such conference of the Caspian Sea littoral states to sort out issues related to the world's largest lake.

The conference was attended by foreign ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan who stressed the need for drafting and inking a comprehensive convention that would spell out the Caspian Sea legal regime.

But no specific results were regrettably reached on this legislation. This stalemate was mainly due to the position taken by Azerbaijan Republic with regard to exploitation of the sea which conflicted with the stances of Iran, Russia, and Turkmenistan.

The 1991 Soviet Union collapse which tremendously affected the international system has greatly revolutionized the regional conditions as well. An important example of such a change is disagreement on the exploitation of the Caspian Sea. Based on treaties concluded between Iran and the former Soviet Union in 1921 and 1940, the Caspian Sea is considered a sea shared by the two countries.

After the Soviet dissolution and birth of the new republics, changes in the Caspian Sea exploitation became imperative, coupled with a consequent change in the positions and tastes of the five Caspian littoral states.

At a time when Iran's fledgling northern neighbors are grappling with many economic problems, exploitation of these rich surface and seabed resources can greatly improve the said countries' economies and contribute to their growth.

In tandem with Iran's insistence on peace and stability in the region, President Rafsanjani in February 1992 proposed the formation of a council of the Caspian Sea littoral states to broaden and upgrade cooperation.

Over the past few years, Iran has demanded that issues such as the Caspian Sea legal regime be primarily determined to remove possible misunderstandings among the five countries.

The unity of the five Caspian littoral states was marred when Azerbaijan signed contracts worth \$8 billion with a consortium of Western firms on September 20, 1994.

Russia and Iran immediately denounced the accords and appealed to other partners to sit at the negotiating table to sort out related problems including the determination of the sea's legal regime.

The Caspian littoral states must realize that speedy formulation of a legal regime will pave the way for the sea's exploitation and benefit all the regional nations. This is because the Caspian Sea is one of the most important and strategic areas with interests for other neighbors in the region and even distant countries which always try to reap benefit of such tensions between the neighboring nations by fishing in troubled waters.

By promoting cooperation through regional bodies such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the

See Page 13

Iran, Guinea Stress Promotion of Relations

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Thursday met visiting Guinean Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Lamin Camaro. The Guinean minister delivered a written message from the Guinean president.

Camaro voiced his country's willingness to expand cooperation with Iran and asked for Iranian

between the two countries

The Guinean foreign minister also met Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri here on Thursday. He called on the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) to support Tehran-Conakry economic cooperation.

Camaro praised Iran as a country making great scientific and industrial progress among the



TEHRAN - President Rafsanjani (R) with Guinean FM Camaro

Nateq-Nouri replied by saying that Iran was for expansion of ties with Guinea, and that coordination and joint decision-making at international forum based on Islamic values and principles would be in the interest of both countries.

He termed the exchange of high-ranking delegations by the two countries as being "highly effective" in expanding bilateral economic and commercial ties.

The Iranian Majlis was ready to endorse the agreements reached between the Iranian and Guinean governments.

Camaro also met with Foreign

Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday. They discussed promotion of bilateral ties and international developments particularly those of the Islamic world.

The two sides expressed content with the present status of Tehran-Conakry ties and called for further broadening of bilateral cooperation.

Camaro arrived here Wednesday and voiced his country's interest to boost ties with Iran in political, cultural and economic fields in general and in mines, road construction and particularly commercial affairs, IRNA reported.

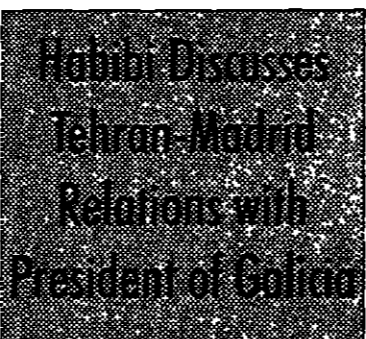


TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker with Guinean FM Camaro

aid. He also said that the Guinean president will officially visit Iran in the future.

President Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of relations and cooperation

developing countries. He said that his country was ready to cooperate with Iran at international organizations, especially at the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - First Vice President Hassan Habibi here Wednesday in the meeting with the visiting President of the autonomous region of Galicia in northwestern Spain, Manuel Fraga Iribarne stressed that the current conditions of the world demand a more dynamic and effective role by Europe in regional and international developments.

Referring to the impact of the U.S. hegemonistic policies on prolongation of crisis in Afghanistan and Iraq, Habibi said that European states should shoulder greater responsibility toward regional crisis.

According to an IRNA report, referring to Tehran-Madrid historical relations, Habibi said that ancient and historical ties between the two countries pave the ground for further promotion of bilateral relations in different areas.

There exist great potentials both in Iran and Spain which if exploited will boost bilateral economic and trade relations particularly in the area of joint investment, the vice president noted.

He further underlined the need to bolster cultural and academic cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Fraga criticized the double standard approaches toward international issues and called on all powerful countries in the region as well as throughout the world to help settle regional crisis.

ADVERTISE IN
IRAN NEWS
TEL: 888 8148

Iranian, Malaysian FMs Discuss Bilateral Ties

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in a meeting here on Thursday discussed Tehran-Kuala Lumpur bilateral, regional and international ties and their relations with the Muslim world.

The two sides at the meeting expressed satisfaction with expansion of bilateral ties and underlined the need for promotion of mutual cooperation, particularly in the scientific, technical, technological, commercial and economic spheres.

They also agreed on immediate issuance of quarterly residence permits for their traders in order to strengthen, expand and accelerate bilateral commercial ties, exports and imports as well as to

facilitate entry and exit of their traders to each other's soil.

Among other issues discussed at the meeting were the quality of Malaysia's exporting palm oil to Iran, coordinating standard related issues and establishment of a palm oil refinery at Iranian southern coastal areas on the Persian Gulf and also setting up storehouses for the product.

According to an IRNA report, Iranian and Malaysian foreign ministers also agreed on the need for strengthening and expansion of cooperation between National Iranian Oil Company and Malaysian Oil Company in various sectors, including oil, gas, petrochemicals and other oil derivatives.

The two sides also exchanged views on issues relating to the Muslim world, Afghanistan and Central Asian republics.

Leader Condoles Imam Khomeini's Family on Death of Ayatollah Passandideh

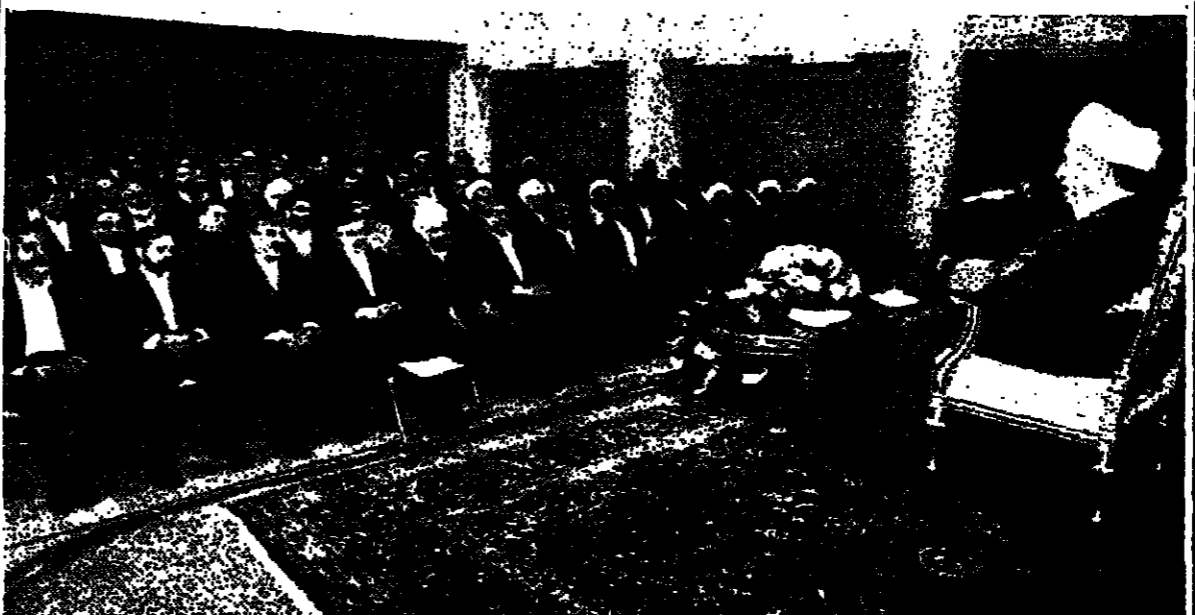
IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khomeini, today, a condolence message to the family of Imam Khomeini on Wednesday, expressed his deep grief on the demise of Imam Khomeini's brother Ayatollah Passandideh.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said in his message that during his lifetime, Ayatollah Passandideh had helped Imam Khomeini in a dozen of ways while also obeying him.

Ayatollah Khomeini said in his condolence to the bereaved family of Imam Khomeini that the Imam always respected Ayatollah Passandideh and also called that to pay tribute to his memory is paying tribute also to the memory of Imam Khomeini, IRNA reported.

Rafsanjani Receives Officials of University



TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Thursday received officials of the Islamic Azad University and hailed the services of the university. Rafsanjani said that 550,000 students are studying in the university, a fact which is the manifestation of its importance.

(Photo by ASD)

Iran-Turkey Gas Line Operational Ahead of Schedule



HABIBI

ISTANBUL, TURKEY (IRNA) - Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi here on Thursday said that attempts would be made to put into operation the Iranian gas pipeline to Turkey ahead of schedule set in the two countries' agreement signed during Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Tehran.

The remarks were made during Habibi's short stay at Istanbul airport on his way to Italy for attending an international meeting of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Habibi told the reporters that

the Iranian gas will help Turkey develop its economy, adding that Islamic Iran feels happy over boosting its cooperation with the Turkish Muslim government.

"Nobody has the right to hinder a government from putting into execution an agreement which is to serve its people," Habibi said.

Iranian Economy, Finance Minister Addresses COSMEC Session

Iranian Economy and Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad-Khan, addressing the 12th session of the Organization of Islamic Conference's (OIC) standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMSEC) in Istanbul Thursday evening recommended the member countries to develop their mutual trade and try to set up a closer cooperation among themselves.

Mohammad-Khan who is the representative of the Asian countries to the session, which is attended by representatives from 53 countries, said that the OIC mem-

ber countries still have to pass through a long way to reform their trade structure.

To benefit from the existing trade opportunities and to avoid hesitations and doubtful transactions in the current world situation, the member states should try to boost their trade abilities and attempt to produce non-traditional and artificial commodities, he pointed out.

Calling lack of a sound banking and financial system in some of the member countries as a major cause of backwardness in the trade sector, the Iranian minister expressed hope that the newly established Islamic Insurance Company would remove anxieties in the field of investments and export credits.

Iran, Malaysia to Broaden Economic Exchanges

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy of the Director General of Iranian Foreign Ministry Department for South and Southeast Asia Hussein Shojaei told IRNA in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday that Iran and Malaysia had many yet undiscovered areas for trade exchanges between themselves.

He said a joint economic commission was to identify new channels for improving trade exchanges and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry envoy said that in 1995 the total

Iranian Deputy Commerce Minister Meets ASEAN

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (IRNA) - Iranian Deputy Commerce Minister Nahavandian said in a meeting with Secretary-General of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ajit Singh here on Thursday that expansion of ties and cooperation between Iran and ASEAN members was necessary in view of Iran's status in Asia and ECO.

Singh, Referring to a decision made by the ASEAN and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for expansion of bilateral ties through exchange of expert delegations within the framework of the international organizations, including the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP),

said that a bright prospect was ahead for cooperation between the two bodies, especially cooperation with Iran.

In separate meetings with Indonesian coordination minister for economics, finance and industry and development services and coordination minister for industrial and trade affairs as well as Indonesian Foreign Ministry officials, Nahavandian said that circumstances for Tehran-Jakarta economic cooperation had become "very positive" in light of 4th convention of the Fourth Indo-Indonesian Joint Economic Commission.

He underlined the need for Iranian and Indonesian traders gaining access to the latest data on trade and economy in their countries.

He added that a data system was operational at present ready to keep the traders abreast of their required information.

This Week's Trading at TSE

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A total of 10,241,748 shares, worth over 62,336 billion rials, were traded in 8,489 turns for 5,110 applicants here at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) from November 9-13.

In this week's dealings, shares of 45 out of 136 companies increased between one rial and 2,000 rials, while those of 18 others remained unchanged.

Tunisia to Purchase Iran's Steel Products

ISFAHAN (IRNA) - Tunisian Ambassador to Iran Mohammad Sa'd here Wednesday voiced the willingness of Tunisian businessmen to purchase the products of Isfahan's Mubarekeh Steel Complex.

The ambassador accompanied by a group of Tunisian tradesmen inspected the production line, in central Iran, on Wednesday.

Praising the high quality of the products, the ambassador said the complex is a source of pride both for Iran and world Muslims.

The director of the exports department of the complex said that 175 tons of surplus products have been exported during the past eight months.

The products of the complex have been exported to 23 countries since it became operational in 1991, he added.

Greece for Further Promotion of Bilateral Trade Relations

SHIRAZ, FARS PROVINCE (IRNA) - Greek Ambassador to Tehran, Dimitri Tsikouris here Thursday voiced his country's willingness to further boost trade relations with Iran.

He made the remark in a meeting with governor general of this southern province, Mohammad Jahromi.

Referring to Tehran-Athens historical relations, the ambassador said that the two countries

enjoy profound diplomatic and cultural relations.

Pointing out numerous products and great potentials of the province, Tsikouris stressed that Fars Province could play a key role in promotion of bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, Jahromi announced the readiness of local businessmen to embark on extensive economic and trade cooperation with Greek tradesmen.

Poland to Cooperate with Iran in Area of Housing

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Housing and Urban Development Minister Abbas Ahmad Akhoundi in a meeting with Polish Regional Planning and Construction Minister Barbara Blida called for establishment of Irano-Polish joint companies.

Akhoundi briefed Blida on Iran's potentialities in the construction and housing sectors and in other areas in which Iran and Poland can establish mutual cooperation.

Iran Elected Vice President of APTU General Assembly

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (IRNA) - The 8th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunication Union (APTU) opened in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

During the union's internal elections Tuesday morning, the director general for Radio Communication Department of Iran's Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Hussein Mahyar, was elected for a three year term as the president of APTU's general assembly.

Blida outlined extensive activities under way at Polish urban management councils and said that her ministry was ready to cooperate with Iran.

She said that people in Poland have assumed a serious role in running municipal affairs and that her country was ready to offer its experiences in this field to Iran.

Blida, who arrived here on Wednesday at the invitation of Akhoundi, is to meet with several Iranian ministers.

TANDOOR

Indian Restaurant of Hotel Tehran Sara
the only authentic Indian cuisine
Indian management
Mofateh Ave., Ardalan Street, opposite Shiroudi Stadium
Open 7 days a week
8825705, 8825701, 8820934

An Educational Institute Requires Native Speakers
No. 96, Fakhrezaei Ave., Enghelab Sq., Tehran.
Phone: 646 4302
Please contact us Saturday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Qaderi, director general of LSA of Central Province

In a ceremony held in the presence of Musavi, the political deputy of the governor-general and chairman of board of trustees of the Central Province Refah Workers' Sports Club, director general of Labor and Social Affairs (LSA), executive deputy of the Labor House and several directors and management of industries of the province, the winners of workers' sports competitions were commended and awarded.

Addressing the ceremony, Nematollah Qaderi, director general of LSA of Central Province said he was pleased to serve the good and thriving people of the Central Province which is abundant with talented people.

"Should we consider natural resources as a divine investment, we need efficient and healthy manpower to correctly exploit such resources," Qaderi said.

He said physical sports was

very instrumental in the physical and spiritual well-being of workers and that the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has built many sports and recreation centers to protect and improve the health of the laborers.

"We need to expand our sports facilities and build new sports clubs and fortunately the Saveh Sports Complex is under construction and another complex is being built at Mahallat. We are also building the No. 2 Workers' Sports Club in Arak and hope it will be completed shortly," the director of LSA of Central Province added.

Qaderi said 74 sports teams comprising 1,072 athletes from Central Province have participated in provincial and nationwide sports competitions during the

first six months of the current Iranian year.

"Our track and field team has ranked first, our football team second, our weightlifting team third and our women have scored second in body building in the nationwide competitions," said Qaderi adding that several individual athletes had ranked first to third positions in the competitions.

He said due to lack of funds, the Central Province will host two nationwide competitions during the second half of the year and Machinsazi Arak Company has undertaken to sponsor the first competition.

"Certain incidents during working hours are the result of physical and spiritual unfitness, and should we make physical

sports universal, we can minimize such incidents," Qaderi concluded.

Musavi, the political deputy of Central Province's governor-general and chairman of the board of trustees of the Refah Club in the province said Central Province has the potential to expand, and due to expansion of industries, sport is also expected to expand and flourish in the province.

He said Islam attaches great value to sport and a worker who has a healthy physique will have a

also should pay special attention to this issue," said Musavi.

He said several factories in the province have built sports complexes which are limited in number and cannot meet the workers' demand "and we need to build independent sports complexes for our workers."

Lauding the model sportsmen who had fetched honor for the province, Musavi said the management of factories and companies must try to encourage sport and consider it as a fundamental duty.



Director general of Labor and Social Affairs of Central Province and political deputy of governor-general of Central Province

better output.

"A study of developed nations reveals that they are very careful about the physical and intellectual well-being of their citizens, and our nation and Central Province

At the conclusion of the ceremony, 80 model labor athletes were commended by the dignitaries of the province and were presented with diplomas of honor and prizes.

کتابخانه

IRAN NEWS

WORLD

Tunisia to Purchase Iran's Steel Products

Trading at TSE

itself. However, a friend of mine told me she has had the same condition, but her doctor calls it edema. Is this a more serious condition than mine, or is my condition more serious than I thought?

He also stated that Muscat believes unity and solidarity among regional states would leave no room for foreigners' regional presence. He also underlined that Oman would focus its efforts on seeking a solution justifiable to all.

He hoped that Iran and Oman would succeed in solving their disputes as soon as possible.

Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri thanked Oman for adopting logical stand vis-a-vis Iran and on such issues as the d'Amato bill, saying that the country's efforts were aimed at restoring peace and friendship among regional states.

He added that Oman has proved it can play a positive role in removing wrong perceptions about Iran.

The Majlis Speaker said that settlement of disputes and establishment of good ties with regional states are the "permanent and institutionalized" policy of Iran. IRNA reported.

He said that before the incident, and during his stay in Iran, the accused Iranian had been arrested in Iran for a very substantial debt to his creditors, and that he had been bailed out to stand trial later on.

The ayatollah said during his conditional release in Iran the said person fled to Germany. He said there were people in Europe to identify such people for very special exploits which explained the reason he had been arrested in Germany.

The head of the Judiciary said the German court had even summoned the one-time Iranian President Banisadr - now an emigre in Europe - for testimony against the indicted Iranian, but that even the German court had rejected Banisadr's testimony as unsubstantiated.

Rowhani is in Dublin heading a parliamentary delegation. He also summarized Iran's regional peace-seeking policies, its active role in the promotion of peace and stability in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Northern Iraq and on the settlement of disputes between Sudan and Uganda.

He voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the European Union (EU) in promoting regional peace-seeking measures. He underlined that Iran was interested in expanding ties with the EU in line with the interests of Iranian and European nations.

He hoped that Iran's ties with the EU would be further consolidated in the course of Ireland's presidency of the 15-nation organization.

Robinson expressed Ireland's willingness for the expansion of mutual ties and underlined the importance of Tehran-Dublin ties in bringing the two countries closer. She added that Iranian and Irish people's adherence to religious beliefs and spirituality would serve as an important factor for

consolidation of bilateral ties in future.

Rowhani and the accompanying delegation also Thursday met separately with the Irish speaker as well as the members of the Investment and Economic Strategy Commission and the Agriculture Committee.

Rowhani, in his meeting with the Irish agriculture, food and industry minister, outlined Iran's viewpoints regarding the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-1999) on the development of agricultural priorities and highlighted existing grounds for mutual agricultural cooperation in the areas of interest.

He underlined the sensitivities of Iranian people, media and related officials on the import of healthy animal products.

The Irish agriculture minister emphasized on the importance of continued exchange of views by the two countries' officials, calling the talks as "helpful" and hoped that bilateral ties would further expand in future in light of the effective continuation of subjects agreed upon by the two sides, IRNA reported.

Morteza Samadi, deputy foreign minister for communications affairs, told Bachmann that German judicial officials have indulged an ugly political game against the Islamic Republic under Israel's influence.

He specified that repeated vain allegations, insults and baseless accusations with political motivation and distanced from the judicial realities by the German federal prosecutor against Iran's most senior religious and political officials, proves that the German judicial power has tarnished its credit through politicizing its law-court under the impact of the Zionist regime.

Samadi said that the charges are based on the testimony of certain people whose records include terrorist activities like hijacking and masterminding sabotage acts against the Islamic government and Iranian people. He added that the records are available in Iranian courts.

The deputy foreign minister underlined that the Islamic Republic's government would not tolerate such insults. He added that such hostile measures would adversely affect the bilateral relations and the German government is to be blamed for its consequences, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, according to a report thousands of Iranians demonstrated in front of the German Embassy yesterday to protest German accusations that Iran was involved in a 1992 assassination in Berlin.

The demonstration was held after Friday prayers. The demonstrators were chanting slogans such as "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

Meanwhile, German prosecutors yesterday sought life sentences for two men, Iranian Kassem Darabi and Lebanese Abbas Rihayel, charged for murdering four Iranian Kurds.

HEBRON

From Page 1

blaming the other for the failure. The stalemate prompted a round of telephone diplomacy late Thursday with Netanyahu calling U.S. President Bill Clinton to give Israel's side and Jordan's King Hussein speaking with both the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, officials said.

Negotiations on implementing the Hebron handover only began under U.S. prompting on October 6 after unprecedented clashes erupted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip between Israeli troops and armed Palestinian police.

The Palestinians have also reportedly agreed not to place police stations within a kilometer (0.6 miles) of the Jewish areas and to increase the number of joint patrols in the city.

Israeli and Palestinian security officials meanwhile said they had completed preparations for the transfer of power in Hebron and could complete the maneuver within hours.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said army reinforcements had already been sent to the city to prevent attempts by Palestinian or Jewish radicals to disrupt the pullout.

And in a related development, settlers opposed to giving up any of Hebron protested yesterday outside Netanyahu's Jerusalem office.

discussion regarding the topics of discussion among themselves.

For instance, he noted, when it is said that terrorism is bad it should apply to all countries, including the United States.

"If we have a proper definition about terrorism and review the operation of various countries about terrorism with a single yardstick, then we will find out that the U.S. and Israel are on the top of international terrorism," he pointed out.

He added: "Our revolutionary experience and the record we have about the U.S. operations, tell us not to accept the kind of peace and human rights that the U.S. claims to advocate." He cited Afghanistan as an example.

Habibi said Iran would accept and support a peace and security which would guarantee real independence and freedom for nations. "And this is exactly what our religion, Islam has taught us."

Turning to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Habibi stated: "What is under way in the name of peace talks will not only have no positive result, but would lead to the diversion of the public opinion."

He said Israel was the main stumbling block on the way of peace because "as the world is witnessing, and some European countries have also experienced it, Netanyahu is the greatest obstacle in the way of peace."

He added that the anti-Iran propaganda in the West about the peace talks "was just a political game by the U.S. and Israel."

Thanking Habibi for his outspoken stances, Bruton said the European Community has never agreed to Israel's obstructions but rather criticized this Israeli position. He added that the EU was also unhappy that the Oslo agreement had not been implemented. "We are consulting our friends in the Middle East about this matter," Bruton noted.

He also hoped that the EU would be able to find an appropriate solution to the Middle East problem within the context of the United Nations.

In another development, Habibi met with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud al-Zolbi and discussed regional issues.

Al-Zolbi told Habibi that so far the Zionist regime has proven

that "it does not believe in peace, and European countries have also realized it."

The Syrian prime minister said that his country is ready to form a joint ministerial commission with Iran and is interested in exchange of high-level visits between the two countries' authorities.

Habibi, in turn, said that Iran is well aware of the stances of Syria against plots orchestrated by the aliens. He noted that the regional developments necessitate that presidents of the two countries meet and exchange views on the issues.

Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali also met with Habibi and said contacts between officials of the Islamic countries to exchange views on crucial issues is a must.

Filali said, "Most of our (Islamic countries') problems ensue because others meddle in our internal matters."

He said that people in Morocco attach significant importance to ties with the Islamic Republic and these ties could be accelerated through closer economic links.

The potentials of the Islamic countries should remain at the disposal of the Muslims, Habibi said.

"Iran's cooperation with Central Asia and the Caucasus could serve as a model of multinational cooperation for others," Habibi said.

Minister Mullah Muhammad Ghaus and Dostani's representative General Mohammed Painda in Islamabad.

He later told reporters that the Taliban appeared willing to pull their troops and heavy weapons out of Kabul once a cease-fire was signed.

Observers in Tehran welcome such a piece of news from neighboring Pakistan and hope that the U.N. envoy Holl will be allowed to play his role to settle the dispute in Afghanistan without interference of outsiders.

The Taliban, who came from theological schools, first appeared on the Afghan scene in 1994, opposing the forces which had overthrown the Soviet-backed regime in 1992.

The Taliban's interpretation of Islam drew criticism both from the regional countries and elsewhere in the Islamic world.

In Tehran, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei last month criticized them for acting "in the name of Islam while carrying out actions unacceptable by Islam."

The leader of the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt Mustafa Mashhous also sharply criticized the Taliban for the crude and disgusting way it was trying to impose Islamic dictates on Afghanistan.

nouncing any pretext in this regard, and taking serious action in response to the use of food as an international political weapon.

C. Paying careful attention to rural women's share in the achievement of sustainable development, food security, and optimal consumption; providing the necessary facilities in order to extend their activities and to enhance the level of their knowledge. This proves to be an effective measure to combat hunger and malnutrition.

II. Academic, Technical and Social Measures

A. Adopting due policies in line with the propagation of optimal consumption patterns: giving variety to the routines of food production and consumption; providing internationally effective methods so as to decrease post-harvest losses and lower the pressure exerted on the principal resources.

B. Optimizing and developing sound and decent technology aligned with environmental considerations which shall, no doubt, lead to the enhancement of food production.

C. Developing research activities and applied studies, as well as encouraging a social trend of information dissemination in order to preserve fundamental resources.

D. Offering effective academic, technical, and financial assistance to volunteer countries in order to establish research centers for the biological control of plant pests and pathogenic agents and production of bio-pesticides and to set up two or three such international centers and support them financially through an international fund to be specifically allocated by the FAO.

E. Helping the developing countries through transfer of technology, know-how, and capital investment to augment food production.

F. Seriously extending biological and non-chemical means of controlling pests and pathogenic agents and applying organic fertilizers instead of chemical ones.

G. Improving the living standards of rural communities in order to prevent migrations to the cities.

III. Trade and Financial Measures

A. Making international arrangements for the transfer of excess agricultural produce to vulnerable regions, and preventing food annihilation practiced against the moral ethics for the purpose of keeping food prices high.

B. Establishing an international fund so as to compensate for the damages to those countries which are forced to stop production in some fields since such production would leave destructive effects on the environment and basic resources.

C. Making joint regional and international investment in order to elevate the food security index through enhancement of production and improvement of distribution.

D. Founding an international food security subsidy.

E. Allocating a portion of the profit obtained by chemicals producers to the food security and production improvement activities. This originates from the fact that they contribute to the environmental pollution and render unavoidable losses to the fundamental resources in one way or another.

"The Islamic teachings attach prime importance to decent utilization of all the blessings that Almighty God has granted man regarding communal food security, health, and poverty alleviation."

Caspian Sea Littoral States Council, the littoral states must attempt to settle ambiguities, iron out differences, and close their ranks in order to prevent foreigners from penetrating into the region.

Those Caspian littoral states which are reluctant to ease their stances and insist on division of the sea according to the coastlines must realize that from the days of yore the Caspian Sea has served as the symbol of peace and friendship and should remain as such.

tion. Islam has offered practical guidelines for proper actualization of the aforesaid goals.

Following these instructions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has inserted into our Constitution several principles regarding the need for poverty suppression and deprivation elimination in regard to food, accommodation, employment, and health care.

This legislation has, likewise, put great emphasis on the generalization of insurance, realization of self-sufficiency in agriculture to meet the nation's basic needs; prevention of extravagance in food consumption; increase in the agricultural and livestock production; environment protection and campaign against its irreversible destruction and pollution.

For the proper actualization of the above-mentioned points, utmost care has been levied on the implementation of food security and natural resources' preservation following the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. In the face of economic sanctions slapped on the country during the eight-year imposed war and Iran's grant of shelter to millions of refugees, the country has achieved great success in the fields of water management, optimal utilization of water resources, decrease in food losses, rehabilitation and development of the rural areas and increase in food production.

The country's total agricultural produce soared from 43 million tons in 1989 to 61.2 million tons in 1994. The amount of wheat produced has increased from 7.2 million tons to about 12 million tons during the First Five-Year Development Plan (1989-1994). In the same way, livestock production has increased from 5 million tons to 6.2 million tons, and the average energy provided has risen from 2,800 kcal to 3,900 kcal in the final year of the plan.

In conclusion, Habibi insured all those caring for mankind's dignity and honor that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to share actively in the movement for the realization of global "sustainable food security."

He also expressed sincere hope that the global community would comprehend the significance of collaboration and understanding in the establishment of peace the world over and succeed in adopting due academic, technical and practical approaches in order to help realize "sustainable food security" and provide "Food for All."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran shall actively take part in this great feat with all its might and main," he said.

ing Herat and the Afghan capital of Kabul, 620 kilometers (370 miles) away.

Since throwing out the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani from Kabul last September the Taliban has been locked in a ferocious battle with its enemies.

Serbs to Try Izetbegovic for War Crimes

PALE. BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - The trial by a Bosnian Serb tribunal of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for alleged involvement in war crimes will open on December 24, officials said here yesterday.

Izetbegovic was indicted of "war crimes against the civilian population" on September 11 by prosecutors in Banja Luka, the largest town in the Serb entity in Bosnia.

The charge sheet was handed over to peacekeepers of the Implementation Force (IFOR) in Pale along with a request to bring the accused to the trial, said Goran Neskovic, deputy justice minister in the Serb Republic.

Izetbegovic is accused of having ordered the systematic persecution and killing of Serbs in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Bosnian army.

According to another report, a official said Thursday that NATO's Peace Implementation Force, IFOR, confiscated weapons from Bosnian Croat forces and imposed a flight ban on the Bosnian Serb military.

"(IFOR) troops confiscated 14 AK-47s from an HVO (Bosnian Croat militia) convoy returning to Posusje (Wednesday) because they were unauthorized," Major Simon Haselock, an IFOR spokesman said.

IFOR strictly controls weapons movements in Bosnia and often seizes unauthorized weapons for destruction.

Clinton Postponing Most Cabinet Appointments Until Next Year

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - Despite efforts to renew his administration as quickly as possible U.S. President Bill Clinton will postpone most of his Cabinet appointments until January, the White House said.

"We started off, I think, a little too fast paced," White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry admitted Thursday, referring to the quick appointment of a new White House chief of staff last week.

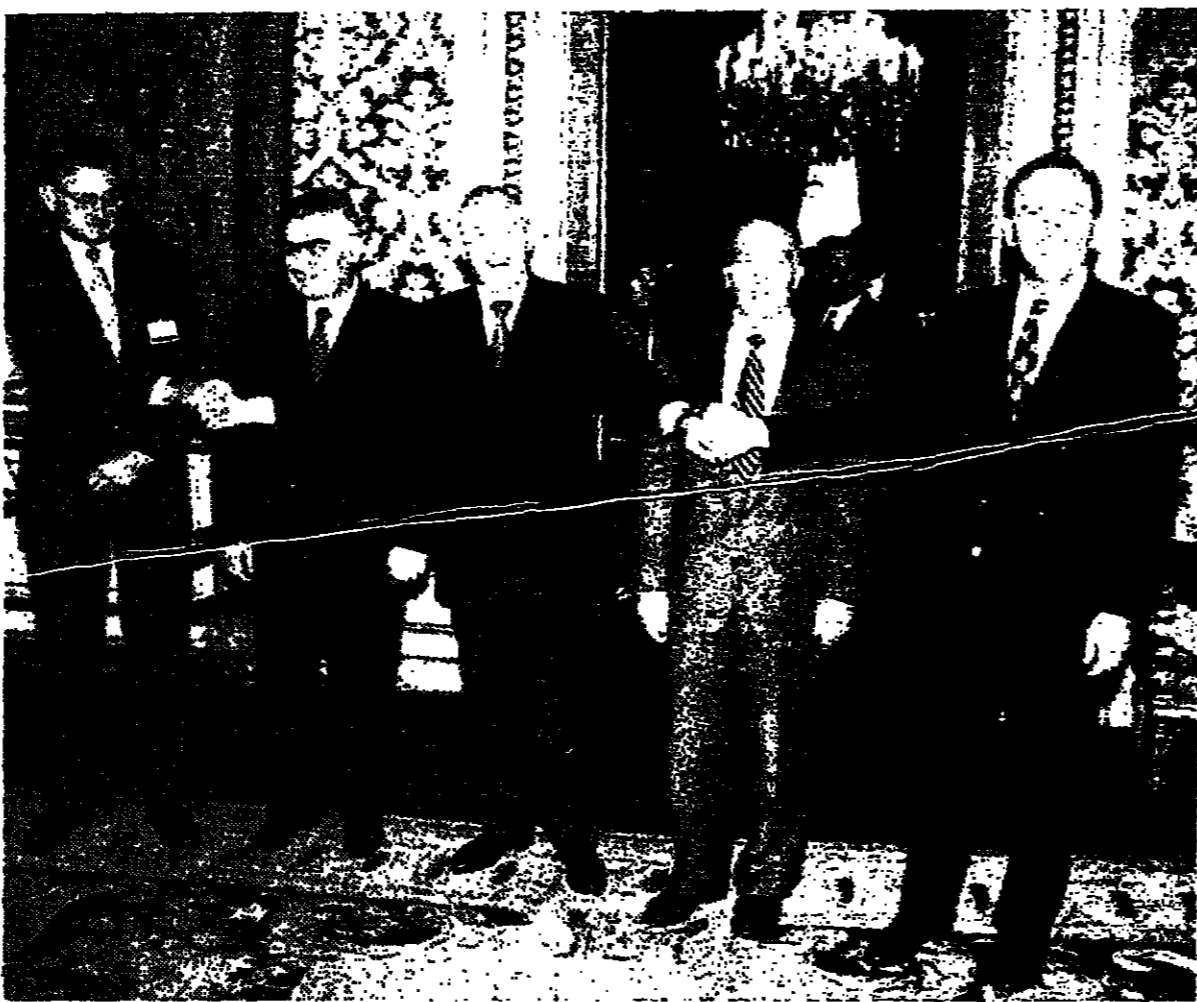
"That may have led to inflated expectations," he said.

The post-election period, he added, would be taken up with consultations and a vetting process of candidates to most Cabinet posts.

"During the month of December, we'll be doing that type of work ... and I expect that will then lead to ... announcements ... right about the beginning of the year or early in the new year," he added.

"The inauguration date is January 20th. And clearly, we want to be in a position to present names to the Senate so that we will have a team ready to go on that day," McCurry said.

He hinted, however, that appointments for a new National Security team -- including secretaries of state and defense -- could come before year's end.



FRANCE: Three heads of the collegiate Bosnian leadership, Serb Momcilo Krajisnik (2nd L), Muslim Alija Izetbegovic (2nd R) and Croat Kresimir Zubak (R), with Swedish negotiator Karl Bildt (L), are welcomed by French Foreign Minister, Herve de Charette (C), Nov. 13 in Paris, one day before the opening of an international conference aimed at consolidating the peace process. (AFP Photo)

Greek Cypriots Protest Against Breakaway Turkish Cypriot Republic

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (AFP) - Thousands of Greek Cypriots staged protests here yesterday after the proclamation by Turkish Cypriots 13 years ago of a breakaway republic in the northern third of the Mediterranean island.

On the other side of the "green line" separating Nicosia, the world's last divided capital, celebrations were scheduled to be held to mark the November 15, 1983 declaration of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The breakaway republic, headed by Rauf Denkash, is recognized only by Turkey, which

invaded northern Cyprus in 1974 after a Greek-Cypriot coup in Nicosia aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Thousands of Greek Cypriots,

including hundreds of schoolchildren wearing black armbands, gathered in Eleftheria (freedom) Square for a live concert, witnesses said.

Russian-Chechen Talks on New Accord Cast in Doubt

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russian government officials yesterday denied that a high-level meeting with Chechen representatives was imminent, while in Grozny a separatist leader said a senior Chechen official would arrive in Moscow within hours for talks.

The conflicting signals came a day after a member of the separatist-dominated Chechen coalition government told AFP that Chechen First Deputy Prime Minister Movladi Udugov and Presi-

dential Security Adviser Akhmed Zakayev would travel to Moscow yesterday.

According to Udugov, the visit would be aimed at finalizing an accord on economic aid and the withdrawal of Russian troops remaining in Chechnya. It would be signed later by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Chechen counterpart Aslan Maskhadov.

However, Chernomyrdin's aide Sergei Slipchenko, quoted by Interfax news agency, said: "We

Second Round of Kurdish Peace Talks Opens in Ankara

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - A new round of U.S.-sponsored peace talks between rival Iraqi Kurd factions began yesterday in Ankara with an initial aim of bolstering the cease-fire accord in northern Iraq.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, who is chairing the negotiations, said the first objective was to strengthen the accord between the Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and its rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Apart from Pelletreau and senior KDP and PUK officials, British and Turkish diplomats as well as representatives from northern Iraq's Turkish-speaking Turkoman community are at the meeting.

Pelletreau said at the start of the talks that the United States, Turkey and Britain will continue their cooperation to eliminate terrorism in the region.

Nearly 2,500 people have been killed in the inter-Kurdish fighting in the past two years. Representatives from the KDP and the

PUK agreed to a permanent cease-fire in the first round of U.S.-brokered peace talks two weeks ago.

Pelletreau had warned Iraq on his arrival in Ankara on Thursday to keep out of the talks if efforts to bring peace to the region are to succeed. The KDP accuses the PUK of receiving support from Tehran, charges denied by the PUK.

"All our efforts are being made within the context of the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. This means that Iran has no place in these negotiations. Iran should desist from any efforts to exploit or destabilize the situation in northern Iraq," Pelletreau said.

"We hope that the government in Baghdad will support the cease-fire as well and take steps to meet its obligations to the U.N. Security Council," he added.

Fighting erupted in northern Iraq in late August and the KDP of Massud Barzani, backed by Baghdad forces, captured the Iraqi Kurd "capital" of Arbil from Jalal Talabani's PUK.

Police, Pro-Democracy

Activists Clash in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) - police yesterday clashed with pro-democracy demonstrators protesting at China's plans to install an appointed legislature in Hong Kong after the territory returns to Chinese rule on July 1, witnesses

said.

Twelve people were arrested during a brief but heated scuffle in which a group of activists burst into the Hong Kong convention and exhibition center, the venue for a meeting chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

They shouted slogans and tried to unfold banners before they were pounced upon by security guards and hauled out.

A police spokesman said the 12 were taken to the police station in Wanchai district for questioning, and faced possible charges of obstructing police in the course of their duty.

They were later released on bail, the local radio RTHK reported.

Another confrontation took place outside the building in which protesters carrying a mock coffin, representing the death of Hong Kong democracy, pushed against a cordon of police.

The protests were triggered by a meeting of the 400-member Selection Committee, a China-formed electoral body, which was drawing up a shortlist of candidates running to head the post-1997 Hong Kong government.

Czechs Vote for New Upper House of Parliament

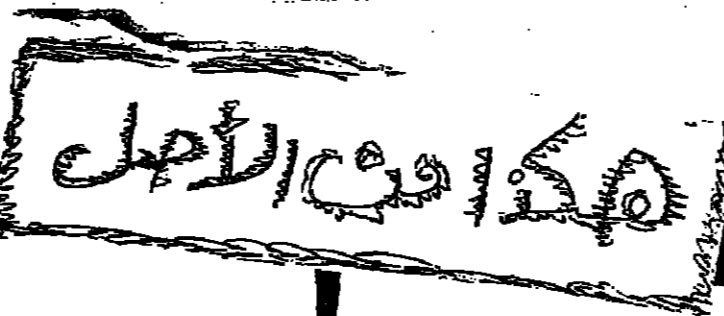
PRAGUE, CZECH (AFP) - Czechs were to begin voting yesterday for a new Upper House of Parliament in an exercise Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus hoped would reverse the setback his right-wing government suffered in general elections in June.

The 81-member senate was provided for in the 1992 constitution but until June neither Klaus nor leftist opposition leader Milos Zeman was in a hurry to set it up.

Klaus feared it would hinder the work of a parliament dominated by his ruling coalition, while Zeman queried the need for the chamber at all.



GROZNY, RUSSIAN FEDERATION: The new secretary of the Russian Security Council, Ivan Rybkin (R), shakes hands with Tim Guldman (2nd L), the OSCE representative in Chechnya, as Chechen information Minister Movladi Udugov (L) looks at journalists prior to their negotiations in Grozny Nov. 12. Rybkin later characterized the talks as "very successful and constructive". Man (2nd R) is unidentified. (AFP Photo)



IRAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ZAIRE NOT YET NOTIFIED OF INTERNATIONAL FORCE

Refugees Stream into Goma, 70,000 Flee Fighting on Zairean-Ugandan Border

GOMA, ZAIRE (AFP) - An endless stream of Rwandan refugees poured into the rebel-held east Zairean town of Goma yesterday and thousands returned across the border to their homeland as foreign troops began flying to the region to help them.

The refugees, together with thousands of Zaireans who had fled Goma when rebels battled for control of the town at the start of November, said Rwandan Hutu militiamen who had held them under their sway had fled further into Zaire.

On Thursday, heavy arms fire was heard as the mainly Tutsi Zairean rebels appeared to have surrounded the Mugunga camp, where Hutu Interahamwe militias and Rwandan former government troops had set up a pocket of resistance.

The road from Mugunga, which in recent weeks became the largest refugee camp in the world with more than 450,000 people cut off from aid by fighting, and safe haven on Lake Kivu, was full of a

column of people.

Meanwhile, some 70,000 people have fled their homes near the Ugandan-Zairean border following intensified fighting there, the official new vision newspaper reported here yesterday.

Quoting military sources, the paper said the fighting, which was in its third day, was between Ugandan rebels based in eastern Zaire supported by Zairean troops, and Ugandan government forces aided by Zairean Tutsi rebels.

According to another report from Rome, Zairean Vice Premier Mutombo Bakafwa Nsanda said yesterday that Zaire has not been formally notified of plans for a multinational force to help the million refugees on its territory and must obtain such notification if the intervention is to take place.

He told reporters that in any case Zaire will not allow aid to be brought to the refugees in eastern Zaire since it wants the refugees to leave and receive the relief in their home countries of Rwanda and

Burundi.

Aid "must be placed in Rwanda, and distributed in Rwanda," Mutombo told reporters at a press conference on the sidelines of the U.N. World Food Summit. Burundian refugees are also in eastern Zaire.

The United States, Canada, France and Britain are finalizing plans to deploy to rescue the refugees in Zaire. The U.N. Security Council is expected to authorize the intervention force later yesterday, with a mandate of four and a half months running to March 31, 1997.

N. Korea Again Threatens to Restart Nuclear Program

SEOUL, S. KOREA (AFP) - North Korea yesterday again threatened to restart its nuclear weapons program and break a 1994 accord with Washington, accusing the United States of bowing to South Korean anger over a submarine incursion.

"We cannot keep the nuclear program frozen any longer only to get heavy oil ... with no importance given to when the light-water reactors will be provided," the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The statement was a reference to South Korea's refusal to go



ROME, ITALY: Pope John-Paul II (C) with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali (L) and FAO Director General Jacques Diouf (R) pose for photographers after Pope John Paul delivered his speech for the opening of the World Food Summit Nov. 13 in Rome. (AFP Photo)

ahead with the building of two light-water nuclear reactors (LWR's) for the North until Pyongyang apologizes for the submarine incursion.

"As a result, the framework agreement, which was concluded by sincere efforts of the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States two years ago, marking an epoch-making occasion in ensuring peace in the peninsula, has now been at stake," the news agency said.

"If the U.S. is interested in the implementation of the bilateral agreement even a little bit, it must

take a reasonable view of the present situation and have a responsible position," KCNA said. Seoul and Washington have both said they want the 1994 nuclear agreement, struck in Geneva, to hold despite the September 18 incursion of the submarine which a captured crew member said was on a spy mission with 26 men aboard.

But Seoul, which has agreed to pay the bulk of the \$4.5 billion for the LWR's, has said Pyongyang should apologize before its engineers return to the North to begin construction work.

Demonstrations in East Timor Enter Fourth Day

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (AFP) - Protests in troubled East Timor continued for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, with more than 1,000 youths staging a three-hour sit-in on a university campus, officials there said.

"They were not only our students, but also others who came from almost all universities and

high schools here," said Dionisio Soares, an East Timor University official said.

Soares, speaking by telephone from the East Timorese capital of Dili, said university officials had talked with representatives of the protesters and "they have now agreed to disperse and return home."

Winston Lord Quits State Department; Steered U.S. Asia Policy

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, the top Asia hand in President Bill Clinton's administration, said Thursday he will leave the State Department in January to return to private life.

"I am planning to leave, and I informed my superiors of that some time ago, no matter how the election came out," Lord told reporters, adding that he planned to depart "on or about January 20."

Lord, widely respected among Asian officials, had been expected to leave the State Department in January to return to private life.

"I am planning to leave, and I informed my superiors of that some time ago, no matter how the election came out," Lord told reporters, adding that he planned to depart "on or about January 20."

Lord, widely respected among Asian officials, had been expected to leave the State Department in January to return to private life.

to leave the administration next year but announced his decision publicly for the first time Thursday. No successor has yet been designated.

He joins a long list of senior officials who have announced their intention to leave the government in the wake of President Bill Clinton's November 5 re-election.

"I love this job. It's been an honor to have been chosen by the president. Secretary Christopher for this assignment and to work with them," he said. "I think we can take some satisfaction in what's been achieved in the region."

The World at a Glance



KALININGRAD, RUSSIA -

Russian forces yesterday test fired a medium-range ballistic missile in the Kaliningrad enclave, just 20 kilometers from the border with Lithuania, Russian military officials said.

ROME, ITALY - Officials at the U.N. Food Summit in Rome announced they were reprinting yesterday's program since a mistake had been made - they had listed Li Peng as prime minister of the Republic of China, which is the name Taiwan uses for itself.

OSLO, NORWAY - A Norwegian ferry with 33 passengers and 22 crew members ran aground in rough waters off the Swedish coast late Thursday and all but 11 crew members were evacuated, rescue officials said yesterday.

ROME, ITALY - Cuban President Fidel Castro has been forced to delay a trip to Rome to attend the World Food Summit and will miss a scheduled speaking engagement yesterday, the Cuban delegation said.

CAIRO, EGYPT - Twenty people were missing, including 14 foreign tourists, and 65 were injured after a cruise ship ran aground in the Nile in southern Egypt, according to the latest toll given yesterday by police.

JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA - A group of bottle collectors, sifting through the soil in a roadside ditch near Johannesburg, have found a mass grave containing the remains of up to 20 people, the star newspaper reported yesterday. (DISPATCHES)

Police Go on Top Alert Following Miss World Suicide

BANGALORE, INDIA (AFP) - Police went on maximum alert here after a man burnt himself to death in protest against India's hosting of the Miss World Beauty Contest, a top official said yesterday.

But the pageant organizers, despite further suicide threats by opponents to the event, said they had no plans to hold talks with the protesters.

Bangalore City Police Commissioner Sarat Chandra Burman told AFP: "We will go on full alert right away."

"Two thousand police, including 35 officers with commando operation experience, have already been deployed at the hotel where the 89 pageant contestants

are staying." Burman, who is also hoping to draft in another 14,000 police reinforcements, was speaking after a 24-year-old committed suicide Thursday in Madurai, a temple town about 450 kilometers (281 miles) south of Madras.

Suresh Kumar, a member of a Communist Youth Group, poured kerosene over his body and set himself on fire in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, reportedly shouting slogans against the ongoing pageant before collapsing.

Ashwini Singla, spokesman for organizers Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd. (ABCL), said yesterday: "We do not see any need to talk to the protesters."

Turkish Troops Killed 85 Kurds

DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY (reuter) - Turkish troops have killed 85 Kurdish rebels in clashes over the last four days, security officials said yesterday.

The emergency rule governor's office said in a statement that 62 guerrillas from the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were killed in an operation which began on Thursday in Hakkari province near Turkey's border with Iraq.



DHAKA, BANGLADESH: Student supporters of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's ruling Awami League march Nov. 13 with portraits of the country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the Dhaka University campus to celebrate the repeal of an act by the Parliament, paving the way of participants of the 1975 bloody coup. The coup left Rahman and most of his family dead, but Sheikh Hasina, his daughter survived as she was abroad. After 21 years the national Parliament unanimously adopted late Nov. 12 a bill repealing the Indemnity Act of 1975 that banned the trial. (AFP Photo)

IRAN'S ORIGINAL HOUSE OF AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CUISINE

Japanese Restaurant

No. 30 Shahid Kodami (Bijan St.)

Vanak Sq., Tehran

Tel: 8773735 & 8776301

LUNCH 12:00-15:00 DINNER 18:30-23:00

Former Indian Skipper Azhar Ties the Knot in Secret Ceremony
BOMBAY (AFP) - Former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin has tied the knot after a controversial relationship with a former Miss India, newspapers reported Friday. Azharuddin married model-turned-actress Sangeeta Bijlani in a secret civil ceremony at her home here Thursday. Their controversial relationship came to light when Azharuddin walked out on his wife and two sons after his affair was made public during the World Cup earlier this year. Azharuddin's former wife Naureen has accused the Hindu actress of stealing her husband and wrecking their eight-year marriage.

Sports Highlights

Pakistan Ground Kiwis to Lift Champions Trophy

SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AFP) - Wasim Akram's Pakistan fought back from the dumps to snatch a dramatic 41-run victory over New Zealand in the Champions Trophy final here on Friday.

Bowled out for a modest 160, the Pakistanis hit back to skittle the Kiwis for 119 before 20,000 screaming supporters at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Akram himself led the way with three for 20 and spinners Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Afridi and Mushtaq Ahmed picked up two wickets each.

New Zealand, looking for their first major one-day title, lost nine wickets for 53 runs after opener Mark Greatbatch's 52 had taken them to a comfortable 66 for one by the 20th over.

"After the disappointing batting performance, it was good to fight back so well," said Akram, who was named Man of the Match.

"Pakistan can never be taken lightly and we proved that today. I have a very solid team under me."

New Zealand skipper Lee Germon, whose team tours Pakistan next week for three tests and three one day internationals, said the batsmen let down the bowlers.

"It's not often we bowl a team out for 160. If you don't win from there you don't deserve to win," a disgusted Germon said.

Greatbatch and Adam Parore (22) were the only batsmen to reach double figures on the slow wicket. Seven of them were either bowled or trapped leg before.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq began the rout by removing Parore, before having Nathan Astle superbly caught at point by fellow spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Becker Far From Major Triumph on Home Soil

BONN (Reuters) - German tennis fans are realizing that the days of watching Boris Becker winning a major tournament on his home soil are coming to an end. Next week's ATP world championship is therefore precious.

Becker travels to Hanover for the season-ending tournament as defending champion and has the psychological boost of some brilliant performances at last month's Stuttgart Open when he beat world number one Pete Sampras in the final.

There are rumors circulating in Germany that the Australian Open champion, who celebrates his 29th birthday during the tournament, may be thinking of bringing his career to an end in the next 18 months.

Becker's son Noah Gabriel will be three in January and it is believed that the player wants a more stable family life with less of the traveling that the tennis tour demands.



Becker is expected to have another crack at his favorite tournament Wimbledon next year. If he were to win it for a fourth time, some observers seriously believe he would announce his retirement from the game almost immediately.

It may be a long time before a player comes along who can stir the emotions of the often staid Germans as much as Becker has done in the last decade, especially in an indoor arena where the incessant clapping and cheering can be deafening.

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

Ceballos Will Miss Rest of 1996

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Cedric Ceballos, the forward who led the Los Angeles Lakers in scoring last season, will miss the next six to eight weeks with a torn tendon in his right knee. Ceballos was examined here Thursday by team physician Steve Lombardo, who confirmed the injury suffered in a 95-83 loss Wednesday in San Antonio.

Ceballos was injured with three minutes and 48 seconds to play in the game. He spent several minutes on the floor in pain and was taken off the court on a stretcher. The Lakers already had two other small forwards, Jerome Kersey and Trevor Wilson, on the injury list.

VOL. III, No. 605 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Saturday November 16, 1996, Aban 26, 1375, Rajab 4, 1417



BEIRUT, LEBANON: Iranian national team player Ali Akbar Moudir Rossta (on the ground) tries to tackle Lebanese player Terro Kihayanian (R) during their friendly game November 13 in Beirut. The game ended 0-0.

(AFP Photo)

All Eyes on United

LONDON (AFP) - All eyes will be on Old Trafford this Saturday when Manchester United bid to end one of the worst runs in their history against an Arsenal side looking to take their unbeaten league streak into double figures.

There are only four teams between second-placed Arsenal and a United side who have slid to sixth after three straight Premiership defeats.

But the gulf between two of the giants of English Football in terms of confidence could not be greater.

Last season, it was arthritic Arsenal who were seen as the side seizing up while United swagged about the country, the cockiness of 'Fergie's Fledglings' endearing them to no-one except their own fans as they strolled towards their second "double" in three years.

But what a difference a year makes. Or in United's case, what a difference a few weeks makes.

These are crucial days for United manager Alex Ferguson whose job security will be called into question if he fails to halt a string of setbacks which, by their own high standards, has been nothing short of astonishing.

Defeats to leaders Newcastle (5-0), lowly Southampton (6-3) and their first home defeat for two years to Chelsea (1-2) were compounded by a shock 1-0 Cham-

ions League defeat to the Turks of Fenerbahce.

By contrast, Arsenal's ageing squad have been enjoying a new lease of life under the astute stewardship of Frenchman Arsene Wenger whose tactical sophistication and motivational skills have put them in the running for an unlikely shot at the title.

United, though, will be boosted by the return of Ryan Giggs who has been plagued by a persistent calf injury which has restricted him to just 10 minutes of Premiership football since September 29.

His previous appearance was as a late substitute during United's last League victory, a 1-0 home win over Liverpool on October 12.

Nobody will be enjoying United's slump in recent weeks more than Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan who has added some grit to the glamour of his buoyant table-topping side.

With the combative qualities of David Bani and Robert Lee in midfield winning ball for the attacking talents of David Ginola, Peter Beardsley, and Faustino Asprilla, Newcastle are no longer the soft-centred side of last season.

They will be looking to extend their two point lead at the top with a win over a West Ham side whose glut of foreign stars has brought

them the nickname "United Nations".

But the hammers' indifferent form this season, despite the presence of stars such as Paolo Futre and Slaven Bilic, has prompted suggestions there is communication problem in the ranks of their foreign legions.

England stars Neil Ruddock and Jamie Redknapp both look likely to retain their places in fourth-placed Liverpool's line-up at Leeds on Saturday.

'Razor' Ruddock appears set for a run in the team after withdrawing a transfer request and replacing out-of-form Phil Babb in Wednesday's 4-1 League Cup win over Charlton.

Multi-Million Pound signing Stan Collymore and Patrick Berger were on the bench for Wednesday's game and manager Roy Evans is aware of the problems of keeping all his stars happy.

"We have a big squad and that can give you a headache. We have a lot of good players and it is a problem many people would like to have," says Evans.

Fifth-placed Chelsea travel to bottom club Blackburn with expectations of their success growing almost by the day.

Bookmakers William Hill revealed on Thursday that Chelsea are now the most heavily backed team for in the Premiership.

Bowlers Hammered by Test Hopfulness

HOBART, AUSTRALIA (Reuters) - West Indies suffered a blow to morale on Friday when two Australian test hopefuls savaged their pace attack in the final warm-up match before the first test in Brisbane.

Openers Matthew Elliott and Matthew Hayden both hit centuries as an Australian XI amassed a daunting 316 without loss on the opening day of a four-day match at Bellerive Oval.

At the close, Elliott was unbeaten on 153 and Hayden was 143 not out.

Missing the services of experienced trio Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Kenneth Benjamin, West Indies' weakened fast bowling attack failed to impress.

Hayden was dropped twice before bringing up his century, first on 15 by Sherwin Campbell at point and then on 84 by Robert Samuels at square leg, both times from the bowling of paceman Nixon McLean, who is making his first tour with West Indies.

The pair had reached 199 by tea after Australia XI captain Stuart Law won the toss and decided to bat following an early rain delay. They were merciless in the last session, lifting their scoring tempo to add another 117.

The luckless McLean finished with no wicket for 80 runs from 20 overs, while Ian Bishop was the most economical, conceding 52 from his 18 overs.

The partnership between Elliott and Hayden was the highest opening stand in a first-class match in Hobart.

Contracts Worth \$10b Studied at Cairo Forum

CAIRO (AFP) - Contracts worth \$10 billion were examined at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference in Cairo, the president of the world economic forum said Thursday as the meeting came to an end.

"The deals discussed by businessmen reached \$10 billion," Klaus Schwab told reporters at the forum which attracted 4,000 participants, more than half of them businessmen, from nearly 80 countries.

"I'm very satisfied with the results. All the computer terminals were busy. Four thousand individual contacts have been made," he said.

The largest contract was signed by Egypt, Turkey and the U.S. firm Amoco for the sale of 10 billion cubic meters (350 billion cubic feet) of liquefied natural gas from Egypt to Turkey by the year 2000.

Schwab did not give details of other contracts.

French Journalists Strike Again Over Tax Reform

PARIS (Reuters) - French journalists staged a second one-day strike on Thursday in protest against government plans to scrap a 30 percent tax break.

Public broadcasting stations provided only limited news services and many newspapers, especially outside the capital Paris, cancelled Friday editions.

At Agence France Presse (AFP) news agency, French-language services were sending only urgent copy, while international services were unaffected. Reuters' French-language services were also affected.

But there were signs that fewer journalists took part in the protest compared with a similar walkout last month. Journalists at several dailies, including Le Monde, Liberation and financial newspapers Les Echos and La Tribune Desfosses, remained at work.

The government plans to scrap the 30 percent income tax deduction for journalists and more than 100 other professions, including

airline crews and fashion models, as part of a reform which will reduce income tax for most taxpayers.

The reform is due to be debated as part of the 1997 budget bill by the national assembly on Monday.

On Wednesday, the national assembly's finance committee endorsed the plan but voted to trim Value-Added Tax (VAT) on the media. The committee said it hoped to offset journalists' losses by providing an extra subsidy for employers.

By scrapping the deductions the state will gain two billion francs (\$400 million) a year. Lowering VAT on media to two percent during 1998 and to 1.9 percent in 1999 from today's 2.1 percent would cost it about 100 million francs, deputies said.

Some journalists have threatened to retaliate by refusing to provide news coverage of deputies who vote for the plan.

IMF Agrees to Resume Standby Loan to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - The International Monetary Fund said on Thursday that it expected to reactivate, and possibly expand, a stalled standby loan to Pakistan next month and to start early discussions on a longer-term structural adjustment loan.

A statement from the IMF's resident mission in Islamabad said the IMF and Pakistan's caretaker government had confirmed a draft agreement on resuming loan disbursements that was originally reached with the ousted government of Benazir Bhutto.

The IMF statement said Pakistani authorities have also asked for more money under the standby arrangement and that the request would be considered. The original loan was for \$600 million.

An IMF team led by Paul

Chabrier, director of its Middle Eastern Department, conducted the discussions with Pakistani officials.

"These were extremely successful discussions," Shahid Javed Burki, adviser on finance and economic affairs to caretaker Prime Minister Miraj Khalid, said in a news conference.

"With the conclusion of this agreement we have really turned the corner," said Burki, who is on leave from the World Bank.

The IMF had withheld two \$80 million disbursements of the standby loan due in June and September because it was unhappy with the Bhutto government's economic performance and the budget for fiscal 1996/97 (July-June).

Airlines Edge to Decision on Ticket Price Hikes

GENEVA (Reuters) - International airlines, despite forecasting a collective record profit for this year, were on Thursday reported edging towards a decision on whether to raise prices for passengers to make up for a surge in fuel costs.

Industry sources said a meeting called by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to review the issue could end later on Thursday rather than Friday as originally expected.

The sources could give no indication of what the decision might be, or even whether it would be immediately announced.

Many European carriers are known to be pushing for a con-

certed move on lifting ticket prices by up to three percent, but Asian and North American companies are believed to be reluctant to take that path.

Officials at IATA, the 251-member global airlines body, said decisions open to officials at the meeting included raising fares across the board or just on some routes or simply levying surcharges on some or all routes.

But analysts said they could decide to take no concerted action at all, leaving individual companies - some of whom have already announced price hikes - to take their own action.

World Bank Acknowledges Error in Rural Loan Curbs

ROME (Reuters) - The World Bank acknowledged on Thursday it made mistakes in reducing support for third world agriculture and pledged to spend more to tackle rural poverty.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn said the multilateral lender had switched tack to funnel more money into rural development. But it did not want to get into a "dollar race" by saddling poor nations with ever greater loans.

"We have...in the last 10 years reduced our focus (on agriculture), not deliberately but it just happened. And that has now been reversed," he told reporters at a U.N. food summit.

"I believe that in terms of poverty alleviation, when 70 percent of the world's poor are in rural areas it is essential that we give much greater focus to rural development," he said.

He agreed with a reporter at a news conference who said World Bank spending on agriculture had more than halved to \$2.6 billion from \$6 billion over the past 10 years. But he said he expected the spending to rise "significantly" from there.

The Washington-based Bank, whose clients are governments outside the industrialized world, said in papers issued at the World Food Summit that raising farmers' incomes was vital to meeting the summit's goal of halving global hunger in 20 years.

But on the summit sidelines, the bank drew criticism from action groups who said its free-market philosophy was keeping third



WOLFENSOHN

world nations in the rut of poverty and hunger.

Spanish-based Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) accused the Bank of telling the world that "feeding corporate coffers is more important than feeding people".

Plans by the Bank to push agriculture to the top of its agenda "stem less from concern for the well-being of rural people around the world than from recognition of the enormous potential for the market economy in this arena," it said.

Wolfensohn, chatting in a relaxed way as he defended the Bank's goals, said he was open-minded about many criticisms but he knew of no better way to cure hunger than to encourage trade.

The Bank wanted to spread support for agriculture down the food chain to help farmers improve their income.

He related how farmers he had

seen in India had been encouraged to grow taller maize by increasing their yields but had no better way to get it to market than on a bicycle.

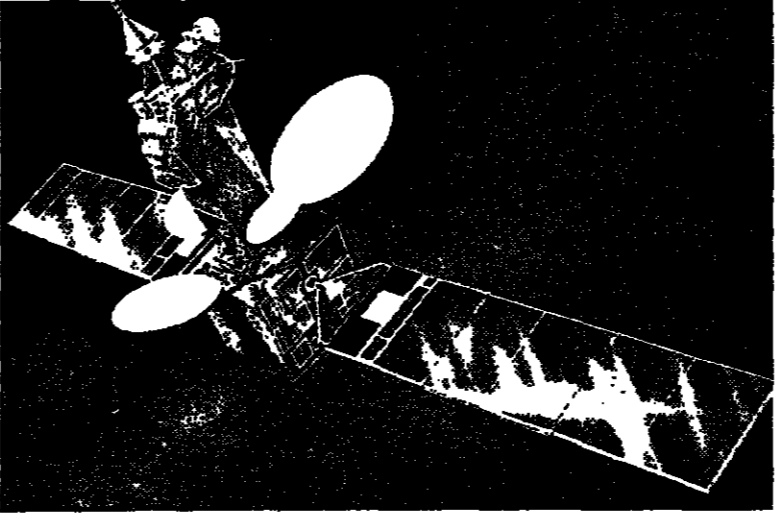
Wolfensohn also used the summit to announce fresh moves to help some of the poorest countries deal with heavy debt.

Officials from creditor nations were meeting in Paris on Thursday to start implementing an agreement reached in September to lessen the debt burden of several countries, he said.

The talks aimed to choose the first countries to benefit from the deal, in which the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Paris Club of Creditor Nations all plan to improve their help for the most indebted nations.

Under the initiative, the Paris club will improve debt relief to the world's poorest nations while the World Bank and IMF will also provide additional funds.

Worldwide Telecoms Accord Is on Track



GENEVA (AFP) - A worldwide telecommunications agreement is taking shape, several participants at World Trade Organization talks said here Thursday.

"The ministerial conference in Singapore will be an important

step towards conclusion of an accord in February," said European negotiator Karl Falkenberg.

President of the WTO working group Neil McMellan said: "Even if I cannot affirm that an accord will be ready by February, this

Russian Loan Tranche to Be Delayed

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The International Monetary Fund was still not happy with Russia's revenue collections and planned to hold up another disbursement of its three-year \$10 billion loan to Russia, retiring U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Thomas Pickering said on Thursday.

But he told the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace that Moscow was very serious about meeting the IMF targets and would make a major effort this month to do that.

"I'm disappointed that an IMF mission which just finished an early examination - the real make-or-examination will come at the

end of this month - is still not satisfied with the level of revenue collection," said Pickering, who just completed a three-and-a-half-year tour in Moscow.

"So the revenue collection target has defeated the capacity - at least for the moment - for the IMF to disburse another important tranche in the long-term stabilization fund loan on which Russia is counting," he said.

He called this "agonizing" for Russia's economy and added that the dangers of Russia not getting the IMF loan "are real in the sense that social dislocation for many people in Russia are just around the corner."

seems to be the last chance we have until the end of the decade, and the talks restarted on an encouraging note."

The European Union and the United States have offered substantially improved proposals following the resumption of high-level telecommunications negotiations this week in Geneva.

Worldwide negotiations to liberalize telecommunications were due to end last April, but the deadline was pushed back a year on American insistence that offers in hand were not good enough.

The U.S. and Europeans say liberalization of their own markets will happen only if other countries reciprocate.

Six others - Singapore, South Korea, Mexico, Poland and South Africa - said Thursday they would they would hand in better offers in Singapore.

Canada and Brazil have pledged to present new proposals in January 1997.

In its latest bid, the U.S. agreed to remove restrictions limiting access to submarine cable landing licenses. Two previous offers covered market access and national treatment in the local telecom services market.

Europe's main olive branch is Spain's promise to free the telecommunications market by 1998 and the removal of most foreign investment restrictions. It also eliminates market niche distinctions.

The telecommunications market, worth \$550 billion in 1994, is growing at an annual eight percent clip, according to the International Telecommunications Union.

Economic Digest

ABU DHABI - The United Arab Emirates and Britain have reached an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, the British Embassy announced Thursday.

It said in a statement that the agreement was reached following five days of talks between the ministry of finance and a delegation from the British inland revenue service.

The agreement will be ratified and signed early next year, the statement said.

RIYADH - An employee in the Saudi American Bank has embezzled 3.5 million riyals (\$933,000) from a bank branch and fled Saudi Arabia, the Al-Jazira daily reported Thursday.

The Ambic-language newspaper quoted sources in the bank's branch in the town of Qasim, 350 kilometers (217 miles) north of the capital Riyadh, as saying that authorities were investigating the reported embezzlement.

The bank, 30 percent owned by Citicorp of the U.S., is one of 12 commercial banks in the kingdom.

Officials in the bank declined to comment on the report.

MANAMA - Aluminum Bahrain BSC, should consider forming joint ventures with producers of raw materials to secure long-term supplies at good prices, Alba's chief executive, Gudvin Tofte, was quoted as saying.

"We should be looking at India, which is close to Bahrain, has low shipping costs and has a good supply of bauxite," Tofte was quoted by Alba's newsletter as saying.

Alba currently imports most of its raw materials from Australia.

Tofte noted that raw materials currently represent between 50-60 percent of operating cost, which was relatively higher than in the past. Tofte said without giving details.

Alba owns the largest aluminum smelter in the Middle East with an output capacity of around 500,000 metric tons a year.

Alba is 77 percent owned by Bahrain's government, 20 percent by the Audi Public Investment Fund and 3 percent by Germany's Breton Investments Ltd.

AMMAN - Exports of Jordanian cement increased by 23.3 percent this year because of increased demand, an official said Thursday.

Abdul-Ilah Khatib, director general of the Jordan Cement Co., said sales between January and October this year amounted to \$31.7 million, compared with \$23.7 million in the same period in 1995.

Khatib told the Associated Press that about 60 percent of the exports went to neighboring Syria, while the rest was bound to Yemen and Palestinian self-rule areas.

TOKYO - The chief executive officer of Burger King Corp. said Thursday the U.S. fast food chain hopes to achieve "critical mass" in the Tokyo area within the next few years by opening about 200 outlets.

Robert C. Lowes, speaking in Tokyo, shrugged off concerns that the Burger chain's late start in the Japanese market will be a handicap compared with its competitors.

"If we do it right, we can move right across the street from the other guys and make good money," he said.

Miss Rest of 1996



Bowlers Hammered by Test Hopefuls

TODAY IN HISTORY

1952 - Field Marshal Papagos forms ministry in Greece.

1967 - Twenty-three Turkish Cypriots die in fighting on island of Cyprus.

1968 - Soviet Union announces it has launched world's largest space ship to date, the Proton Four.

1970 - Pakistani officials say death toll in typhoon and tidal wave that struck Bay of Bengal may reach one-half million.

1972 - United States and several European allies invite Soviet Union to participate in exploratory talks on reducing military forces in Central Europe.

1987 - Officials close university of Nairobi after riot troops storm campus but fail to subdue students protesting arrest of student leaders.

1988 - Estonian parliament declares the tiny Baltic Republic "sovereign" with right to veto Soviet laws.

1989 - Heart of Israeli soldier ambushed and killed by Arabs in occupied territories is transplanted into chest of dying Palestinian man. President F. W. De Klerk promises repeal of law allowing segregation of public facilities in South Africa.

1990 - Hungary announces it will unilaterally scrap its Soviet-made ground-to-ground missiles.

1991 - Boris Yeltsin issues series of decrees that effectively transfer control of his republic's economy from Soviet central government to Russian federation.

1992 - Boris Yeltsin and his Cabinet draft an "anti-crisis" plan to get Russia through the winter.

Surgery Can Restore Full Function to Injured Knee Ligaments

BY DR. ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I slipped, toppled head over heels and felt a sharp pain in my knee. I then couldn't get back on my feet. One big bad word from my doctor was "cruciate." The other was "surgery." Could you help a fellow out here, and tell me what this all means and what lays ahead?

ANSWER: From the information you have provided, I gather that you have sustained an injury to one of the two ligaments, or cruciates (from the Latin meaning "shaped like a cross"), that help support the function of the knee. However, it is not clear which ligament you have injured, the anterior or the posterior, and that diagnosis is sometimes difficult to make even after an examination.

When the anterior cruciate ligament is injured, there is an immediate swelling of the knee, pain in the back of the knee and varying degrees of joint instability sufficient to make you cease your activity. In the case of a posterior injury, which may be caused by a fall on the knee or a blow to the front of the leg, while there is pain, swelling may be slow to develop and the injury does not usually prevent getting around.

A physical examination may lead to a correct diagnosis, but standard X-rays usually do not show too much. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be helpful in determining the extent of the injury or tear to the ligament, but in most cases, where there is much instability, it will take arthroscopy to determine the

exact extent of the injury to the ligaments, as well as to the other components of this vulnerable joint.

Using a telescopelike instrument, which is inserted into the knee space through a small incision, the surgeon can inspect the ligaments, cartilage, bone and other tissues.

When the ligament is severely torn, reconstructive surgery can be used to both repair the damage and restore full function and stability to the joint. This may be the plan of your physician. The outcomes are generally very satisfactory, so take heart.

QUESTION: From time to time, my ankles seem to swell and I have never given it much thought. It usually goes away by See Page 13

HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Pelt, M.D.

WHAT EFFECT DO DIETETIC SWEETENERS HAVE ON YOU?



SORBITOL OR MANNITOL, WHICH YOU FIND IN SUGAR-FREE GUM, CANDY, ETC., CAN CAUSE DIARRHEA IN SOME PEOPLE.

Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic system.

DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham



THAT SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'VE HAD TO MAKE ME EAT.

TOMMY TOLD A FUNNY STORY AT SCHOOL TODAY. I ALMOST DIED!



TELL IT TO ME.



WELL, ACTUALLY THE STORY ITSELF WASN'T SO FUNNY...

...IT WAS THE WAY HE TOLD IT.



HOW DID HE TELL IT?

HE WAS DRINKING MILK AND WHEN HE LAUGHED, IT CAME UP HIS NOSE!



GOSH! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU??



WELL, I WAS WALKING ALONG WHEN THIS BIG DOG CAME BY AND KNOCKED ME DOWN!



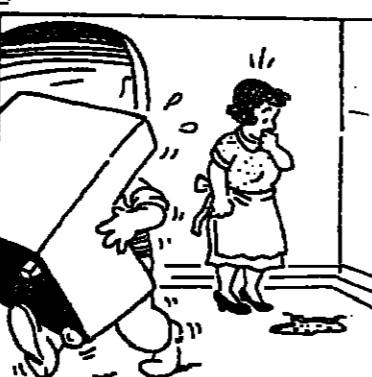
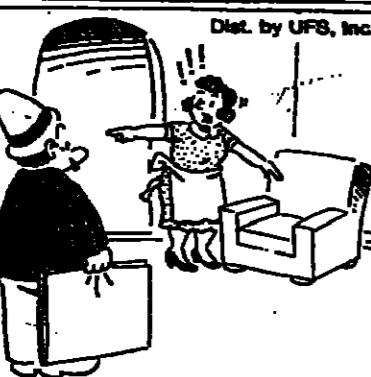
AND WHEN I GOT UP, I TRIPPED OVER A ROCK AND ROLLED DOWN A HILL LIKE THIS!



ARE YOU GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?



ONLY IF PEOPLE STOP ASKING ME WHAT HAPPENED



CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATLAN
[] [] [] [] [] []

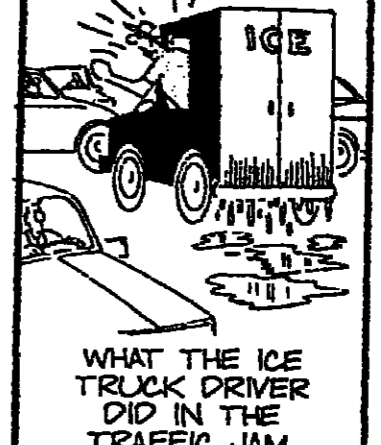
OMBOL
[] [] [] [] [] []

STOFRY
[] [] [] [] [] []

HETOLC
[] [] [] [] [] []

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Hann Arnold and Mike Arghion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] HIS [] [] [] [] [] []

Yesterday's Jumbles: DAUNT JOLLY EFFIGY BANISH
Answer: The last words of a fiance — SAYING "I DO"

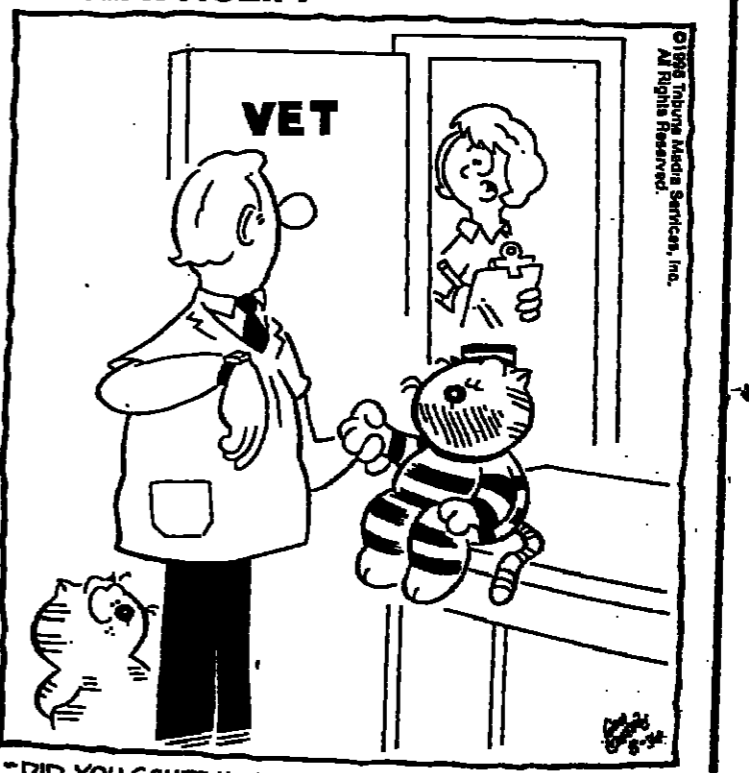
TULIPA GOULIMYI Sealy & Turrill

Family: Liliaceae



Rare species of tulip, endemic to the Southern Peloponnese and to the island of Kythira. It is closely related to *Tulipa hageri*, their difference lying in the greater number of leaves produced by the former (usually 6) and in its large and very hairy bulb. It grows in fields and bushy localities of low altitude or in the semi-mountain zone. Flowers March-April.

HEATHCLIFF



"DID YOU SCHEDULE A GROUP OF BLOODHOUNDS FOR TODAY?"

مركز الفنون

China Clamps Down on Medicinal Fraud

BEIJING (Reuter) - China has ordered health food makers to apply for licenses and submit products for testing to stamp out fraud, the China Daily said recently.

The Ministry of Public Health had ordered manufacturers of health foods to apply for licenses and had pledged to ban the sale of unlicensed medicinal foods from March of next year, the newspaper said. "The Ministry of Health has received an increasing number of letters complaining about the quality of medicinal foods in the past several years," the newspaper said.

China has a bewildering variety of health foods, some of which contain exotic ingredients such as snake bile, deer antler and fungus.

and which purport to cure a wide range of illnesses or prolong life.

"Some of the products have never been inspected by health institutes and some do not contain the nutrients described in the advertisements," the newspaper said. China had more than 3,000 companies producing about 3,000 kinds of health foods, it said.

Foreign companies importing health foods into China would have to submit their products for inspection and include details of their use and effects, it said.

The ministry had defined health foods as those products that affect the functions of human organs but are not targeted at specific ailments, the newspaper said.

Caspian's Caviar-Bearing Sturgeons Imperiled

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - A grim thought for holiday party-goers: the world is on the brink of running out of caviar.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said in a report recently that up to 90 percent of caviar is obtained by illegal trade and the number of sturgeons, which provide the tasty eggs, is plummeting.

"With significant illegal trade, little regulation, tremendous profits and increasing demand, sturgeon species are perched precariously on the edge of extinction," Andrea Gaski, research director of the WWF's wildlife trade monitoring program, said.

"The supply of superior caviar is so low traders are now mislabeling lower-quality eggs and charging superior prices. Buyers

may not be getting what they're paying for," she said.

Almost all the world's top caviar comes from the Caspian Sea, where the population of adult sturgeons has plunged to 43.5 million in 1994 from 142 million in 1978, mostly because of overfishing, the report said.

Russia and Iran are the main caviar suppliers and the dissolution of the Soviet Union has led to a surge in the illegal caviar trade, it said. The city of Astrakhan in Russia and the state of Azerbaijan may be the two major suppliers of illegal caviar, and much of the caviar exported from Russia may have been falsely labeled, it added.

Voracious poaching, in which males and juveniles are killed

along with egg-carrying females, plus the renewed use of trawlers in the Caspian Sea, is hastening the species' depletion, the report said. It urged Caspian nations to adopt a common policy to save the sturgeon, which evolved its bony, armorlike exterior 250 million years ago.

Members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species should consider listing various types of sturgeon for trade bans or quotas and a certification program should be set up for caviar from legal sturgeon fisheries, the report said. It also urged the major importers - the European Union and the United States - to strengthen controls against the illegal caviar trade.

Abortion Third-Leading Cause of Death Among Brazilians

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Abortion is the third-leading cause of death among pregnant women in Brazil, according to a study by the Brazilian Health Ministry released.

Illegal abortions accounted for 8.2 percent of all pregnant women's deaths, according to the study. High blood pressure was responsible for 26 percent of the deaths, and hemorrhages for 13 percent.

This year, one out of four Brazilian women who became pregnant either miscarried, had a legal abortion, or had an illegal abortion, Jose Formiga, an official in the ministry's Mother-Child Health Division.

IRAN NEWS Telephone

The **850** Housing Agency
Offers You Free
Home Renting Assistance
Tel: Twice 850

DIRECTORY

Accounting Service & Tax Consultancy

خدمات حسابداری و مشاوره مالیاتی و بیمه
• Nissan Office of Accountancy
Tel: 877 1943 8879 9286 Fax: 877 1846

Auto Travel Agencies

• Caravan Sahara Tour Organizer
Tel: 750 2223, 750 8727, 750 6976
Fax: (009821) 7671341 Fax: 216793

EAST EXPRESS

Tel: 809 9393-809 8888-809 7272

Shahrak-e Ghods, Golestan Trade Center

• Keyhan Safari (IATA)
Tel: 65 28 44-65 28 99

• Persepolis Tour & Travel Ag.
Tel: 880 8535-6, 8810526/9
Fax: 880 8534

• Rahnama (Transair) Travel Agency
Tel: (009821) 891191/4
Fax: (009821) 8892791

• Sati Air Travel Ag.
Tel: 83 5041-5, 8822336

• Shargh Travel Co.
Tel: 89 40 37-38, 89 7029

• Sogol Tour & Travel Ag.
Tel: 884 9082-85 Fax: 884 9086

• Teen Air Services
Tel: 884 7071-2, 884 6478

• Automobile Information Bank
Tel: 8911-212-8144, 234344

• Bank Melli Iran Card Services Dept.
Tel: 649 7092 Fax: 313 3696

• Export Development Bank of Iran
Tel: 8725140-9 Fax: 8716979
Tlx: 226895, 216850 EDBI IR
129 Khaled Eslamboli St. Tehran
15139 Iran Services: Buy Back

• Zarrin Boarding House (Women)
#9, 27th St., S. Faraj St., North Gargar St.
Tel: 800 2773, Fax: 800 8069

• Aryan Payam Computer
Tel: 884 4322 Fax: 884 4282

• Farasoo Computer Co.
Tel: 6414192-6417628 Fax: 6405974

• Gener X Co.
6 Diba Zarrabkhaneh Inter., Sharini St.
Tel: 222 3836-225 1038 Fax: 2276617

• ICC sales & after sales serv.
Software, Hardware
Tel: 869 809-869 810 Fax: 868 1514

• SAC Networking Co.
Lan Hardware/ Software
By Novel CNE's
Tel: 641 2548 Fax: 649 5786

• Tim Computer Institute
Tel: 885 2241

• Decoration

• Archico., interior design
classic & Modern Decoration
Tel: 864477 Ms. Maleki

• Designer
Tel: 229 3581

• Educational Institutes

• Accounting, Physics, Maths, etc., for all grades and levels
Tel: 256 1690

• A post PhD with international teaching experience gives tuition in English & Maths Tel: 021-605 2472

• Computer Training in 18 hours
Tel: 882 6913 Fax: 883 3305

• Teaching English & Farsi in 4 months. Tel: 646 9394

Flower Shops

• Avalien Super Gol Iran worldwide delivery service
Tel: 803 9302-803 3299
Fax: 803 1260
Add: Mollasadra Ave.
Bel-Sheikh Bahad Street & Parkway

• ELANJEN CHERRY FLOWERS
DELIVERY SERVICES
33 Maryam St., end of Africa Ave.
Tel: 2041999 Fax: 2057988

• Spring & Paliz
Flower Shops
Delivery Service Worldwide
Tel: 285 1884-809 0328

• Zaem Flowers
Tel: 6404488 - Fax: 6404484

• Iran Handicrafts Organization

North Region

Store Add. Tel

No. 1 Taleghani 8826608

2 Nedjatiolahi 891919

3 Valf-e-Ar Sq. 897279

4 Gharani 880 8186

5 Farhangian 675581

6 Valf-e-Ar 285 4792

Hotels

• Arian Apartment Hotel
Tel: 8018545-6 Fax: 8018547

• Azadi Hotel (Abadan)
Tel: (0631) 30060-9 Fax: 30068

• Azadi Hotel (Shahr Kord)
Tel: (0381) 36791-5 Fax: 36790

• Esteghal Grand Hotel *****
Tel: 2840011-15 Fax: 284 7041

• Fardis Hotel (Ex-Swiss)
Tel: 882 0951 - 883 8301 & 4

• Hamedan Buall Hotel ***
Tel: (081) 33878-1 Fax: 33872

• Hamedan Enghelab Hotel *****
Tel: (081) 52081-4 Fax: 30035

HOTEL GROUP

HOTEL TEHRAN
Tel: (009821) 8773021-38

HOTEL SHARAZ
Tel: (009871) 28000-8

HOTEL BAHMAN BARRAS
Tel: (0098761) 553080-7

HOTEL MARSHAD (1)
Tel: (009851) 832001-9

HOTEL MARSHAD (2)
Tel: (009851) 711001-9

Reservation Center
Tel: (009821) 651564-653285 & 657860 Fax: (009821) 655865

• Kowsar Int'l Hotel (Isfahan)
Tel: (031) 240238-9 Fax: 249975

• Tehran Kowsar Hotel ****
Tel: 8981 21-5 & 8983715

• Tehran Sara Hotel
Tel: 882 5701-8820934 Fax: 8822602

• A.B.A. Housing Ag.
Tel: 204 9292 - 204 9099

• Eskin Housing Ag.
Tel: 8787325, 8787172 (Mr. Rezae)

• NO. 1
222 6169 - 222 9159

• No.1 (Ex-Robinson)
Real Estate. Tel: 2854022-2856845

• P.H.A.
Real Estate Tel: 205 1919

• Takhat-e Jamshid Housing Ag.
Tel: 2853886, 2856815 Fax: 2857627

• The 850
Tel: 874 7474 Fax: 874 1568

• T.N.CO. Housing Ag.
Tel: 200 5708

• Jewel/Watch Galleries

• Zenith Sale Agent
Swiss made watches,
Bague jewelry/sale & services
Tel: 2275673-2272799 Fax: 2275068

• Language Institutes

• Kish English School
Tel: 205 49 42 - 3

• Milad Language Inst.
Tel: 888 9265 - 66

Language Inst.

Tel: 650043-655031

Legal & Professional Consultancy

• Dr. H. Samavati
Attorney at Commercial Law
Tel: 8785110 Fax: 8780043

• International Consultancy & Service
Tel: 877 1943 & 879286 Fax: 877 1846

• Pizza

• Pizza Express
16 Saman St., S. Shahr St., Mollasadra St.
Tel: 8039428 delivery service

• Pizzas by 222
dining / delivery / carry out
Tel: 252 0061-2520065

• Zener Eng. Company
UPS & Gen-Sets
Tel / Fax: 6499641-676275

• 24 Hours Rent Cars
Code 155 (ex-Middle East)
Tel: 834490/1/2 Fax: 834493

• BORJE SEFID HOSPITALITY COMPLEX
Tel: 256 2694, 258 8406

• Fardis Rest. (Ex - Swiss)
Tel: 8828516

• Golden Dragon
Chinese Rest. & Int'l Party Room # 69
Cuisine of all countries served
Tel: 285 2581 - 2840588

• Italian Food/Fresh cut pasta
7-aor Restaurant, 298 Mirzale
Shirazi Ave. 8725487-8, Open daily
11.30 a.m. Catering + Delivery

• Japanese Seryna Rest.
Tel: 877 3735 - 877 6301

• Milano Rest.
Tel: 220 9418 - 221 3494

• Narenjestan Restaurant
Continental Cuisine
Open Daily (8a.m. - 12p.m.)
Chaye-Bagh Restaurant,
Open air Barr-e-g. Open daily 7-12p.m.
Vanak Sports & Cultural Complex,
Atter St. off Valf-e-Ar Ave. Tel: 8774566

• Tandoor Indian Rest.
Tel: 882 5781, 882 5705, 882 0934

• Security Systems

• Abtin Dana
Electronical Research Center
#6, 3rd Fl., 297 W. Mirzadeh Exp'way
Tel: 222 8773 - 878 8773

• Fann Burglar Alarm
Niroo Co., 5th Fl., Bldg. 444, Enghelab
Ave., Pich-e-Shemiran, Tel: 7523972 / 4

• Translation Services

• Government Certified Translators
Mr. Granian Tel: 222 4064

• Khasha Translation Firm
Tel: 225 9383-225 4513

• Transport Companies

• Aramex Int'l Courier
Tel: 649 3913/ 14

• Bar va Boneh Tehran Co.
International Transport
Tel: 646 6456, 649 3955 Fax: 646 8039

• Caspian Int'l Transport
Tel: 8841745, 838 167 Fax: 8841501

• Fakhra Transport Co.
Heavylift, General Cargo
Tel: 884 7410-13 Fax: 835428

• Tarighbar
Int'l Transport Co. Ltd.
Tel: 6418527 Fax: 6413886
Tlx: 226810TBAR-IR, Tehran, Iran

• Iran Emdad
Tel: 643 6662-4

How to provide for today without forgetting the future

Production: problems and potentials

The single greatest challenge that agriculture faces is how to increase production sufficiently to feed an expected population of 8.3 billion by the year 2025 without destroying the resources that subsequent generations will need to draw upon.

Land and water are finite. Despite dramatic agricultural advances, many millions of people remain undernourished. Arable land in the world increased only slightly from 1 294 million hectares in 1972 to 2 347 million ha in 1992. The availability of water per caput is declining rapidly.

Planners have concluded that the only possible response to these constraints is a strategy of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD), which will provide for the present without prejudicing the future. Increases in production must come mainly from existing land and water managed in a sustainable manner.

Agricultural activities that degrade the productive potential of land and water resources by causing soil erosion, waterlogging and salinization of irrigated lands, threaten biodiversity and pollute surface and groundwater sources are self-defeating. Pollution of coastal and inland waters and overfishing of the oceans cost too high a price in environmental, social and economic terms.

Excessive demands of rich consumers in developed countries and the developmental needs of the poor can both strain natural sources.

Achieving sustainability

Involving farmers is essential to sustainability. This is a two-way street: giving farmers incentives, technical information and support to manage their land and water sustainably and receiving from them the know-how of farming systems that can be adapted to increase yields while safeguarding the resource base.



Relatively simple new approaches can help to increase food supplies in both developed and developing countries without depleting the resources on which they depend or relying as heavily on inputs such as fossil fuels, mineral fertilizers and chemical pesticides. Much can be accomplished through improving management of natural resources by:

- Maintaining a diversity of crops and varieties to protect farmers against failure in any one crop and providing new ways of increasing food supplies. Little known

Increases in production must come mainly from existing land and water managed in a sustainable manner

varieties of potatoes from the Andes, which thrive in poor mountain soils and are high in protein, could, for example, have important potential for farmers in other parts of the world.

- Diversifying farming systems to make greater use of the biological and genetic potential of plant and animal species.

- Taking advantage of natural processes such as recycling nutrients and intercropping plants that fix their own nitrogen can reduce dependence on mineral fertilizers and enrich soil.

- Adopting integrated pest management (IPM) techniques, which include conserving existing natural enemies, rotating crops, intercropping and planting pest-resistant varieties. When pesticides are necessary, they are used selectively and in smaller quantities.

- Rotating crops and developing agroforestry systems that help to maintain soil fertility.
- Switching whenever feasible to renewable energies such as biomass and solar and wind power, which are locally available, non-polluting and have the added benefit of creating employment.

New approaches to irrigation

One of the most important technologies for increasing production is also one of the oldest — irrigation. Ir-

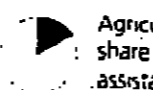
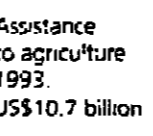
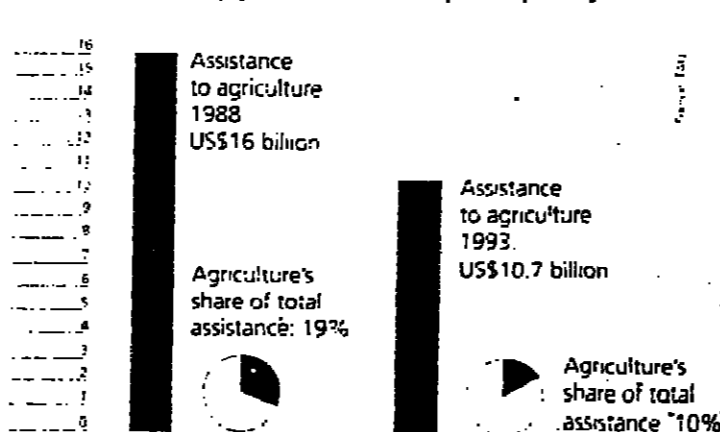
rigated land is more than twice as productive as rain-fed cropland. The 16 percent of the world's cropland that is irrigated at present produces more than 36 per cent of the world's food. Bringing more land under irrigation, especially in Africa, could boost production. As much as two-thirds of future gains in crop production are expected to come from irrigated land.

But rising costs and looming shortages of water along with unwelcome legacies of bad design, poor management and bureaucratic blunders have discouraged efforts to expand irrigation over the past two decades. Badly handled irrigation has led to waterlogging and salinization in nearly 50 percent of the land where it has been introduced. Pollutants and sediments have been allowed to accumulate in dams and reservoirs, and irrigation systems have proved an ideal habitat for vectors of waterborne diseases.

More than two-thirds of the water withdrawn from the earth's rivers, lakes and aquifers is used for irrigation. But in a world where 26 countries are already classified as "water deficient", less than half the water diverted for irrigation actually reaches the crops.

In recent years, however, new irrigation methods have been developed that use water more efficiently through recycling waste and providing better drainage. Drip irrigation and low-pressure spray systems deliver water directly to crops, and small dams located closer to agricultural areas are replacing large projects that strain the environment. Lining canals with concrete and covering them reduces seepage and evaporation.

Agriculture is losing ground as a development priority



Raising production

Future food security will depend mainly on increasing the productivity of agriculture rather than extending the area under cultivation. The technological revolution of the 1950s and 1960s showed the huge potential offered by new high-yielding varieties of wheat, rice and other staple foods. Largely through the adoption of these varieties, food production in developing countries grew at an average of 3.2 percent a year between 1960 and 1990, an unparalleled increase that outstripped the rate of population growth.

The first high-yielding varieties depended on water, machinery, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Furthermore, the dramatic gains in production among the developing countries were largely confined to Asia and parts of Latin America. Research into intensive agriculture continues, but it is becoming more holistic in its approach. There is a growing recognition that while continuing to focus on high potential areas where the chances of increasing food production while minimizing adverse impact are most favourable, the technological revolution experienced in most of

New approaches include diversifying crops and farming systems, exploring little-known varieties, exploiting natural processes and making more appropriate use of mineral fertilizers and chemical pesticides

Food security requires not only increased production but also the generation of incomes and provision of assistance to give people access to the food that is produced

The key to sustainable agriculture is involving farmers. Farmers need incentives, information and government support. They can provide valuable know-how on food production systems

the world must also become more widespread in regions that so far have hardly been touched, Africa in particular.

Researchers are seeking to develop drought-resistant food crops that will flourish with low inputs even in marginal land. They are concentrating on rain-fed agriculture, animal traction, intercropping, nutrient recycling and integrated pest management, emphasizing crop diversification and acknowledging the importance of women's roles. They are working to improve small-scale fishing technology, in-shore and inland fisheries and aquaculture and looking at ways to better utilize multipurpose tree crops, community forestry and agroforestry.

The potential of biotechnology

Biotechnology holds immense potential for agriculture. Through gene manipulation, scientists have already produced faster-growing fish and cheaper, more effective vaccines against livestock diseases. They have used tissue culture to boost the productivity of oil palm and eucalyptus plantations.

Some 50 plant species have been altered through biotechnology, and this is only a beginning. Scientists have developed potato plants resistant to disease, barley with accelerated growth rates and onions that are slower to sprout or rot after cropping. Vine-ripened tomatoes with a much increased shelf life are being marketed in the United States and Europe. Scientists in Mexico have found two wild ancestors of maize that have the capacity to confer resistance to seven of the domestic crop's major diseases and turn maize into a perennial crop harvested every year without sowing.

But these processes have raised some new concerns. While some consumers in developed countries are wary of possible effects on health of fruits and vegetables altered by biotechnology, developing countries fear that substances synthesized in the laboratory or produced by transgenic crops may undercut such traditional exports as vanilla, pyrethrum, rubber and coconut oil. What about the unknowns? Could cloned varieties erode genetic diversity? Could genes from transgenic crops spread to wild relatives?



- World agricultural trade amounted to US\$485 billion in 1994.

- The 16 percent of the world's cropland that is irrigated produces more than 36 percent of the world's food.

- Global water availability per caput is falling from 16 100 cubic metres in 1950 to a projected 6 600 m³ by the year 2000.

- Scientists have used biotechnology to develop disease-resistant potato plants, faster-growing barley and onions that are slow to rot.

Arab Persian Gulf States Threatened by International Drug Trafficking

DOHA (AFP) - Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states are facing a growing threat from drug trafficking from nearby Afghanistan but also from India, Africa and Eastern Europe, international experts warned.

"If you are in the neighborhood of a drug producing country, you will develop an addiction problem," said Ramachandra Sundaralingam, a consultant on drug trafficking for the international police organization Interpol.

The experience in Pakistan, which shares a border with Afghanistan, could hold ill for Persian Gulf countries.

Islamabad recorded no drug addicts in 1979, but now has 1.5 million of them because of the dramatic surge in opium and heroin production in Afghanistan during the long war, Sundaralingam said during a conference here.

Drug traffickers, who are diversifying their supply routes, are taking advantage of a growing number of airports in the Persian

Gulf. Nigerian traffickers, for example, ship African heroin to Europe and North America via the Persian Gulf.

Ahu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, where more than 100 grams of heroin were seized last year, and Riyadh and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, where millions of pilgrims transit, are now on the international drug route.

Traffickers hiding heroin in their bags or clothes may also stop to sell their drugs in the country they are passing through, Sundaralingam warned.

Suspected Tanzanian traffickers were arrested recently in the Omani capital Muscat, even though it is not an international air traffic hub, an anti-drug expert said.

Africa is a market for methaqualone, a synthetic drug produced in India for "individual (agents) who live or operate out of the UAE", said Gene Haislip, the deputy assistant administrator at

the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Methaqualone, a sedative, is popular in South Africa where it is combined with ganja and smoked under the name "white pipe".

A growing quantity of cannabis produced in Asia is shipped by container through the Suez Canal after transiting through free trade zones in Dubai and elsewhere in the Arabian Peninsula.

The chemicals needed to turn morphine into heroin or make methamphetamines also pass through the UAE, according to the International Narcotics Control Board, a U.N. agency based in Vienna.

In major international trading hubs like Dubai, Singapore or Hong Kong, there are always intermediaries who can falsify cargo manifests, Haislip added.

International organizations are also concerned about the risk of the laundering of drug money in the Persian Gulf.

Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, have for the past several years been most concerned about the consumption of fenetylline, a stimulant like amphetamines.

Made legally in Germany and sold under the name of Capiagon, fenetylline was first shipped to the Persian Gulf markets, Haislip said. "It (now) appears that the drug is manufactured in illicit laboratories primarily in Bulgaria."

Saudi Arabia, which heads drug traffickers, announced that it had seized 6.6 million fenetylline pills last year, while the UAE reported 6.1 million pills seized, Sundaralingam said.

However, drugs seized in the UAE are usually on their way to the Saudi market, where the authorities have released no figures on the number of drug addicts there, according to an expert who asked not to be named.

Governments Seek to Predict Unpredictable Quakes

LONDON (Reuters) - Lightning, nervous dogs and water temperature all offer hints, but scientists admitted earlier they were still a long way from being able to predict when and where an earthquake will hit.

Earthquake experts from all around the world were meeting to swap notes in London but said efforts so far were discouraging.

"There has been little progress in over 25 years of research into earthquake prediction, where we use prediction in the classical sense of specifying the magnitude, time and place," Stuart Crampin, a professor of geology and geophysics at the University of Edinburgh, said.

"Indeed large earthquakes seem likely to be statistically unpredictable," Dr Russ Evans of the British Geological Survey told delegates that governments often backed prediction schemes that had little evidence to support them. Evans believes governments and people have been conditioned to wrongly believe that science can

solve almost any problem. "Many people adopt the view that it is only a matter of allocating suitable resources, and a solution will appear."

Despite the current scientific evidence, the Japanese government is spending hundreds of millions of yen (millions of dollars) annually in an attempt to be able to pinpoint when the next tremor will hit the earthquake-prone country.

Dr Yukio Fujinawa of Japan's Research Institute for Science and Disaster Prevention said research must continue as long as there was even a remote chance of success. Some quakes can be predicted, but not consistently.

In Japan, one of the most unstable built-up seismic regions in the world, Fujinawa and his fellow researchers have noticed that lightning storms often take place prior to an earthquake.

But with only a few years of data on this particular phenomenon, he said it was far too early to say lightning could be an early sign of a major disaster. "There just is not enough evidence," he said.

KHA
Sales & Rentals
We offer: Apts, Bldg, Villas, Offices.
For further information,
Pls. ask for Mr. Nia
KHA-Just a call away
An agency exclusively for
esteemed foreign nationals
with up-dated files and
best offers
We'll work harder for you
Tel: 204 - 0177
Tel/Fax: 205 - 4136

BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline
Vall-Asr Ave. Opposite Park Mellat, Sayeh St., No 1 Sayeh Building
Tel: 204 4552 Fax: 204 0927

GET MANY YEARS YOUNGER AND STAY YOUNG KHANEH MOO
The First Institute of Hair Treatment in Iran
Tel: 898423
8892281
Add: Vall-e-Asr St., Just beside Africa Cinema

Visa procurement for Dubai and Sharja
Ordinary & fast services
Tel: 642 8062, 642 8774
Special Discount

English Conversation by a native speaker from Canada
Tel: 6030119

Donya-ye Seyr Travel Agency
Tel: 2006832-5
Fax: 262569
Add: No. 1808-Gholhak, Shariati Avenue

Private Persian Lessons
By university professor Ph.D., Near Eastern Studies/Languages from Berkeley awarded Outstanding Instructor at Berkeley.
Call: 807 0025

Musical Instruments
For Sale
Tel: 6452632

Apt. for Rent
2 b/rs, high-rise, air-cond, phone, parking, security in Shahrak Ghods 809 4029

RENT BY OWNER
Best Part of Dr. Bahonar
Very nice villa, 3 bedrooms, s/p, large garden, 2 alarm systems, parking & fan coil.
Tel: 09112110077

Bahram Gallery
Buying & Selling
Professional and unprofessional guitars plus accessories
Tel: 8030503

24 Hours Rental Car
Code 155
Ex. Middle East With Luxury Cars
Tel: 834490, 91, 92
Fax: 834493

NAMAYAN PARDAZ CO.
(Hardware Engineering)
Innovator of a new service called **PC Insurance** and supplier of other services regarding hardwares including:
☐ 1- Sale of Pentium, 486 computers with one year guarantee
☐ 2- Installation and putting into operation of Windows and NT network
☐ 3- Converting of all systems to Pentium, 486
☐ 4- Repair and maintenance of all systems through yearly contracts
☐ 5- Charging of cartridges of all kinds of laser printers with guarantee
☐ 6- Copying of CDs with guarantee
Tel: 834834, 6454528/9

GHODS CASHT
Tour Travel Agency
All International Airlines Tickets Available: BA, SR, AF, AZ, LH, TK, EK, KLM, OS and Iran Air. Domestic sightseeing tours available: Mashhad, Kish, Shiraz, Isfahan, Yazd, Kerman, Shahr-e-Kord, Kashan, Hamedan, Karaj Dam, Palaces, Museums, & Film sets North: Caspian Sea, Chaloos, Masooleh, Fooman & Torkman Port
Tel: 875 2545, 875 3060, 875 8535, 875 9860 Fax: 875 5655

Private English Lessons
Taught by a foreigner
Tel: 803 8671

Dancheh Flower Shop (Ex-Kentia)
Birds, fish, aquariums, cactus, African violet, Shadavar Alley, north of Velenjak gas station, Chamran Hwy.
Tel: 219 1332, 219 1331

INTERNET Self-Teaching Book
Volume 1: A guide to internet
Volume 2: Index of foreign companies with contact information
Shahid Publication
251 Ordibehesht St., Enghelab Sq.
Sales Dept.: (021) 646 1232

YOUR RIGHT CHOICE IS THE BEST GUARANTEE
Kia Service Company
• Complete wiring (for electricity) of buildings, stores and warehouses
• Installation of halogen lamps and decorative lights
• Installation of the most modern burglar alarms and closed circuit cameras
• Car stereo installation at your site
• Installation of smoke detectors and UPS
• Repair of audio-visual sets at your site
• Repair of electronic phones, intercom systems and visual door-opener installation
Just Give Us a Call
All services available at the shortest possible time at your site
Tel: 802 2216

Fall Art Sales Open with Degas and Manet

NEW YORK (AP) - Edgar Degas' bronze sculpture of a young dancer wearing a cloth tutu and a long, graceful ribbon in her hair sold at Sotheby's for nearly \$12 million Tuesday, a record for a sculpture by the artist.

The piece, "Petite Danseuse de Quatorze Ans," or "Little Dancer at 14 Years," was top-selling item on the opening night of a two week-round of auctions of major art works worth an estimated \$300 million.

The sculpture, which had a pre-sale estimate of \$10 million, was one of five sold by Sotheby's on behalf of the Shelburne Museum in Vermont and originally owned by the late Electra Havemeyer Webb, the museum's founder. The Shelburne says it will use the proceeds from the sale for new acquisitions, conservation, preservation and improved security.

Another Degas work from the Shelburne, a drawing titled "Danseuse Jaune" or "Yellow Dancer," was purchased by an anonymous buyer for \$8.7 million.

Steve Wynn, who owns the Mirage Resorts in Las Vegas, bought an Edouard Manet portrait of Suzanne Lenaire, the daughter of a flower painter much admired by Marcel Proust, for \$2.9 million. Wynn plans to showcase the work in his new resort, the Bellagio, currently under construction in Las Vegas, Sotheby's president.

In all, 44 works of art fetched \$92.5 million, including the buyer's premium charged by Sotheby's. The auction house charges 15 percent of the first \$50,000 paid by the buyer and an additional 10 percent for the remaining amount of the selling price.

Book Review The Interval Between Two Moments

By Iran Darroudi
Published by Nashre Nay
Reviewed by H. S. Zahedi

The Interval Between Two Moments is a book of recollections and reflections by Iran Darroudi, the well-known Iranian painter who has exhibited her works in most parts of the world and has met many of the prominent international and local personalities in the domain of art and letters.

life, Darroudi chronicles significant moments of her life against the background of major political events, thus providing a historical framework for her personal life.

Darroudi explains that although she has spent a considerable part of her life abroad, she has always respected, and abided by, the traditions and customs of her homeland.

A woman of versatile talents, Darroudi's passion for painting

of playing the piano. She has also tried her hand at writing in various periods of her life.

She advises her readers not to give in to sadness, grief and distress. Human beings should always be prepared to welcome the future, she writes, even if that future is limited to just one day, one hour or only a moment.

"The most precious moments are those that still lie unborn in the womb of the future," Darroudi

Darroudi readily accepts her mistakes. "Accepting one's mistakes is another way of accepting life and love," she says. Going through the book, she says, she finds it similar to the experience of doing homeworks full of mistakes which had to be corrected by her teacher. But that does not bother her because she believes that making mistakes is an inevitable part of life which would be crippled if one feared making mistakes.

"The most important things in life can not be seen, and the most important words can remain in the hearts until they pour out in silence."

"I had been taught the lessons of life in the hard way," she mentions in another section of the book. "In the very hard way, I understood the complex meaning of the words."

Darroudi also says "I have been taught not to escape from whoever I am. And to accept my situation in life with my weaknesses and the possibility of repeating the mistakes I made before." The book is coupled with reproductions of Darroudi's paintings, another manifestation of the artist's sense and sensibilities. She concludes the book with an account of a recent visit to her childhood district. She was disappointed to find that most of the familiar signs have vanished in the course of years and that she had become a total stranger to the people living there now. And as one closes the book one wonders if she has forgotten her own advice that one should never give in to melancholy and that the present moment should be accepted with all its uncertainties.



An example of Darroudi's Surrealistic method of painting.

In her 260-page autobiography, which is interspersed with the artist's impressions and speculations on the meaning of art and

never completely overshadowed her love for the other artistic activities, and there are numerous references in the book to her love

writes. "In one of those moments I may create something the like of which has never been produced before."

Spain's Foreign Fighters Heed Call to Return

BARCELONA, SPAIN (Reuters) - The Spanish Civil War was grinding towards its final bleak winter when the country's leader Dolores Ibarruri said farewell to the international brigades.

"Political reasons, reasons of state...are sending some of you back to your countries, others into forced exile," she told around 12,000 battle-weary soldiers at an emotional public meeting in Barcelona on October 29, 1938.

"We shall not forget you, and when the olive tree of peace puts forth its leaves again, entwined with the laurels of the Spanish Republic's victory - come back! Come back to us."

Last week some 400 surviving brigaders, most now in their eighties, answered that call, returning to the country they risked their lives to defend in the 1936-39 war.

At the weekend of November 9-10 they arrived in Barcelona, rekindling memories of that farewell rally in 1938, when the Spanish Republic - despite Ibarruri's confidence - teetered on the brink of defeat.

"It was an emotional day rather than a sad day," recalled Benny Goldman, a British brigader from Manchester. "We weren't happy to be leaving because we wanted to fight on, but it was a wonderful atmosphere - the sunshine and the crowds of people who came to thank us for our efforts."

Three months later Barcelona fell to the forces of rebellious General Francisco Franco. Madrid

followed, and with it fell the Republic, opening the way for 36 years of rightist dictatorship in Spain.

The brigaders scattered. Many continued their fight against fascism elsewhere in Europe. Some were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps. Others fled to exile in the Americas and the Soviet Union.

"Defeat in Spain was difficult to take," said 81-year-old Milton Wolff, a New York Jew who commanded the Lincoln Battalion of U.S. Brigaders. "We were assuring everyone Madrid would be the tomb of fascism."

"But it wasn't something I had time to dwell on because World War Two was starting and we had a new front to fight on. The Spanish war was ending in March (1939). By September Hitler was in Poland."

"I didn't have time to mourn for Spain, which we all saw as the first great fight against fascism. I just had time to tell the world 'I told you so'."

More than 40,000 volunteers from more than 50 countries, many recruited by parties and trade unions, came to fight in Spain, driven by ideals and a collective fear of what defeat for its government might mean for the rest of Europe.

Dismayed by their own governments' policies of non-intervention, they banded together to form a makeshift army, united by the cry "No Pasaran!" (They shall not

pass!).

Around 20 percent of the international brigaders died in Spain and many of the others were wounded.

"I came to Paris from Havana in 1937," said Oscar Gonzalez, a Cuban volunteer now aged 80. "I heard about what was happening in Spain and I had to go. I crossed the Pyrenees on foot and joined the other Cubans fighting here."

The ideological war threw up strange confrontations and at times pitted soldiers against their own countrymen.

"I fought the Italian fascists at Guadalajara (northeast of Madrid)," recalled Vincenzo Tonelli, a veteran of Italy's Garibaldi Battalion. "They retreated so quickly they left behind weapons and milk and cheese for us!"

For many of the 400 veterans in Barcelona this week marked their first return to Spain since the war.

They came because the Spanish parliament has offered them honorary citizenship as a welcome if belated gesture of gratitude for the part they played in defending the doomed republic of the 1930s.

The gesture has fallen slightly flat as, under Spanish law, the veterans would have to renounce their current citizenship and benefits in order to take up the offer.

Additionally, critics of Spain's conservative government have accused it of snubbing the veterans by failing to send senior representatives to pay homage to them

in Madrid last week.

For some, this is evidence that the ideological differences that tore Spain apart in the 1930s, at the cost of over a million lives, still exist.

But for the veterans, the enthusiasm many young Spaniards have shown for them during their visit has more than compensated for any lingering rightist bitterness dating from the Civil War.

Garden in Autumn



The above painting by Alan Bray, titled 'Abandoned,' was part of a collection on display at Schmidt Bingham Gallery in New York during September.

Prix Goncourt for First-Time Novelist

PARIS (AFP) - France's most prestigious literary prize the Prix Goncourt was awarded Tuesday for a first novel, "Le Chasseur Zero" (Fighter Plane Zero) by 35-year-old Pascale Roze, the jury announced.

The book, published by Albin Michel, tells the story of a girl's obsession with a kamikaze pilot who killed her father in the war in the Pacific. She eventually goes mad.

Roze, who was born in Indochina, is the daughter of a naval officer. She has acted and written for the theater as well as a book of short stories, but "Le Chasseur Zero" is her first novel.

Workers' Fate in Modern Chinese Literature

BEIJING (Reuters) - China, once a bastion of Socialist Realist artwork that aimed to portray the working class in all its proletarian glory, is becoming the fading of the factory hand from its aesthetic circles.

Workers now rarely appear as main characters in Chinese books and films, instead playing second fiddle to formerly forbidden icons such as rich businessmen, the Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily said on Wednesday.

"Not a few so-called artists take no notice of workers but instead gild, glorify and deify these 'big' characters," the newspaper said in a commentary.

The commentary said workers were still a major part of modern society and should be the first beneficiaries of Beijing's market-style economic reforms, it said.

"Images of workers have not vanished from life, they have just vanished from our artists' field of vision," it said.

The commentary urged artists to create more pieces portraying workers and describing the life of the common person.

China's Communist leadership has in recent months cracked down on books, films and other cultural works seen as violating puritan Marxist values that have been weakened in the rush to a market economy.

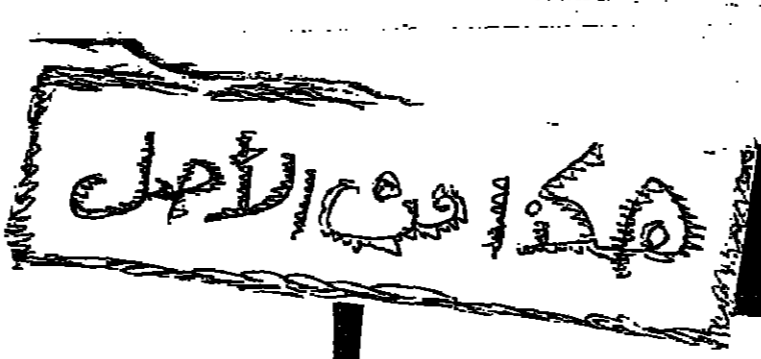
Bejtman Honored Among British Literary Greats

LONDON (Reuters) - A stone tablet dedicated to the late poet Laureate Sir John Bejtman was unveiled in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey on Monday to honor him with a place among the greats of English literature.

Bejtman, who died in 1984, joined literary figures such as Shakespeare, Byron, Keats, Chaucer and Wordsworth in the famous corner of the London abbey, where British monarchs, including Queen Elizabeth, have been crowned.

Some of the poet's works, including "Old Friends, Seaside Golf", "Summoned by Bells" and "In a Bath-Tub Shop", were read at the ceremony.

"I'm sure he would have loved tonight. He was a very kind and loving man who enjoyed laughter," said Bejtman's granddaughter Lucy Ward, who used to read him poetry in his later years.



Pakistan's Bhutto on Shaky Ground in Home Province

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (Reuters) - For the first time in her turbulent political career, sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's grip on her home province of Sindh appears shaky.

Political analysts and party insiders said her November 5 removal by President Farooq Leghari combined with the killing of her estranged brother Murtaza Bhutto could damage the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in its southern bastion of Sindh.

They said the appointment of Bhutto's uncle Murtaz Bhutto, a hardline Sindh nationalist and political enemy, as caretaker chief minister of Sindh was an obvious attempt to split the PPP.

Murtaz Bhutto, leader of the Sindh National Front, served as Sindh chief minister in the early 1970s under the government of

Benazir's father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was toppled by a military coup in 1977 and executed two years later.

"The appointment of Murtaz Bhutto shows the Bhutto factor still dominates politics," said Imran Aslam, editor of the daily the News. "The charisma and legacy of the Bhutto name still holds firm. To oust one Bhutto in Sindh, they need another."

Nabeel Gabol, deputy speaker of the dismissed Sindh provincial assembly and a PPP member, said Murtaz Bhutto had only a small following, but an alliance between his supporters and those of Murtaza Bhutto could not be ruled out.

"Sindh province will no longer be a safe haven or a piece of cake for PPP candidates," Gabol declared.

"The killing of Murtaza proved a setback for the party in Sindh," he said. "No one has blamed Benazir Bhutto for it, but our opponents used the incident to defame the party."

Bhutto's Spokesman, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, brushed aside the idea that she faced a possible party split in her heartland. "She is not concerned about this at all," he told Reuters. "There have been many such attempts before. They all failed."

Murtaza Bhutto, a strong critic of his sister's government and leader of a small breakaway faction of the PPP, was killed by Karachi police with seven companions on September 20.

Police said Murtaza's bodyguards fired first, but Bhutto has said the killing was part of a conspiracy against her family, her

three-year-old government and democracy in Pakistan.

Angry followers of Murtaza's PPP-Shaheed Bhutto group yelled slogans against Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari at the funeral in the ancestral Bhutto graveyard of Ghari Khuda Bux.

They then filed a formal complaint charging that unnamed politicians and police officers in the federal and provincial governments had conspired to murder their leader.

"Murtaza's killing may result in a backlash," said Aslam. "Disillusionment among PPP supporters could be a major dent in the party's power base of Sindh."

He said the cities of Sindh, especially its capital Karachi, were already hostile to the PPP after the Bhutto government's bitter struggle with the ethnic Moha-

jir Qumi Movement (MQM).

Among charges of corruption and misrule, Leghari said in his order dissolving Parliament that police had killed "thousands of people" in cold blood in Karachi and elsewhere.

Leghari, once a close Bhutto ally, asked the caretaker government to supervise a general election on February 1.

If Bhutto is allowed to stand, the polls could test whether the 43-year-old politician can rally her party for another comeback after being sacked as premier twice in six years.

Already some defections from party ranks have taken place.

Sindh Governor Kamal Azfar, a one-time Bhutto loyalist, dissolved the provincial assembly on November 7 at Leghari's bidding.

"I have high regard for Benazir, but the president's action in dissolving the assembly was inevitable," he said.

Political analysts say that none of the anti-PPP parties can defeat the PPP alone, but a coalition of Sindh nationalists, the PPP-Shaheed Bhutto group and other political forces could block a PPP majority in the provincial assembly.

A Murtaz Bhutto aide said the battle was wide open. "To cobble together a strong anti-PPP alliance there are many ifs and buts and it is premature to predict its chances of success."

Aslam said a complete swing away from Bhutto was unlikely. "She is a fighter and can rise from the ashes," he added.

Italy Eyes Welfare Spending, Pensions the Key

ROME (Reuters) - Italy's welfare state is a mess. Hugely generous to many pensioners, it ignores the country's army of young unemployed and continues to throw money at an inefficient health service. Gianni Agnelli, better known as honorary chairman of industrial giant Fiat than as a social crusader, sounded the alarm bell last month.

"The welfare-state edifice is crumbling and unless we do something, we are all going to be crushed," he warned.

The government has promised to launch a review of the whole system next year, but reform is likely to be slow and tackling the main problem, pensions, will prove tough in the face of concerted union opposition.

Italy, weighed down by vast debt servicing costs, is fighting to tame public spending in a bid to meet tough directives for countries wishing to join the planned European single currency from the start in 1999.

Some analysts have urged Prime Minister Romano Prodi to take the knife to social spending, especially pensions.

"A long-lasting consolidation of the budget would require a reform of Italy's welfare state, for which political support is limited," said Ilaria Fornari, head of research at Bank JP Morgan in Milan.

Latest statistics from Eurostat reveal that Italy actually forks out less in benefits than most European Union countries, with social spending here representing 24.6 percent of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in 1994.

By contrast, in Germany it was 28.1 percent, in France 27.7 percent and Britain 25.2 percent.

Italy's problem is that much of its welfare is concentrated on pensions spending, with a whopping 51.8 percent of all social costs eaten up by retirement benefits against 30.6 percent in Germany, 36.5 percent in France and 40 percent in Britain.

And even this is not evenly spread, with retired professionals and managers receiving some of the largest state pensions in the world, while people at the lower end of the pay scale end up with disproportionately low handouts.

"We are going to have to break a few taboos and ask some of the wealthier pensioners to start paying for services and health costs," said Pia Saraceno, director of the Italian Institute of Social Research (IRS) in Milan.

Only last year, the then-Prime Minister Lamberto Dini initiated a pension reform program. The deal, signed by unions and business leaders, was hailed as a major breakthrough, but analysts have always argued that the accord was too slow moving.

Italy has a system based not just on age but also on how many years people have worked. Dini's reform called for the gradual phasing out of early retirements, but in the meantime they are eating an increasing hole in state accounts.

The combination of falling birth rates and longer life-expectancy is adding to the headache.

Italy's population is expected to drop by 3.6 percent over the next 24 years while in the 15-nation EU as a whole the population is expected to rise some 7.7 percent. Rome is worried that in the future, under its pay-as-you-go system, there might not be enough workers to cover pension commitments.

These commitments are already huge, with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) saying Italy's pension liabilities equalled 242 percent of GDP in 1990 - the highest level among top industrialized countries.

For next year alone, the state's main pension fund says it faces a 27 trillion lire (\$18 billion) deficit.

The Dini deal called for a review of the reform in 1998, but the treasury wants this brought forward to 1997. Italy's major unions, more than half of whose

members are pensioners, say no.

"People who today want a new pension reform are the ones who rejected the initial reform. They won't be happy until they see the complete dismantling of the welfare state," Sergio D'Antoni, leader of Italy's second largest union, told Reuters.

But as it struggles to make the grade for the single European currency, Prodi's centre-left government might have to override union opposition.

"The 1998 budget will be based on pension reform," predicted Giovanna Mossetti, chief economist at Milan brokers caboto.

Savings elsewhere in the welfare state will be hard to find. Indeed some argue that more, not less, must be spent on things like family allowances to encourage people to have more children and boost the population.

At present little state aid is given to large families, while no benefit is offered to unemployed

school leavers. The onus is on the parents to bear all the cost of their young.

Looking at the health service, commentators did not see an easy way of reducing costs without changing the nature of the system, such as introducing U.S. style health insurance. This is almost unthinkable in welfare-minded Europe.

In fact recent Italian governments have already curbed health care spending and Eurostat says Italy spends slightly less than the EU average on medical costs.

What is now needed is restructuring to improve the erratic system, which on the one hand offers free sex changes but on the other has just one hospital in the southern half of the country capable of caring for AIDS patients.

The situation in that hospital is so desperate that the army was sent in last month to bring peace to the wards.

Czech Star Jumps from Right to Left in Senate Race

ZATEC, CZECH REPUBLIC (Reuters) - Helena Ruzickova, film star turned candidate in Czech Senate elections this weekend, is a political chameleon and proud of it.

Last time out the 60-year-old actress backed the far-right Republicans. This time she's running for the Communists with a campaign slogan borrowed from classical Greek. But, she says, party affiliation doesn't really matter anyway.

The star of countless slapstick comedies before and after the 1989 fall of Communism, Ruzickova says she is running on the Communist ticket because they asked her first.

"This is what I tell everyone. Whoever came with the offer would be accepted, there is no question about it," Ruzickova said during the campaign in the north-west Bohemian town of Zatec.

One of the larger actresses of Czech cinema - her weight is a secret but must be over 100 kg (220 lb) - Ruzickova says she would have happily run for the civic Democratic Party of right-wing Prime Minister Vaclav

Klaus if only they had asked first.

Ruzickova is not actually a member of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, the successor to the party which ruled the former Czechoslovakia with an iron hand for 41 years.

Instead she is one of a number of independents running on the slates of various parties of the right, left and center.

"I believe people who know how to work and want to work are needed in the Senate, whatever party they come from," she said.

She supported the republicans, who dislike everyone from Gypsies to President Vaclav Havel, in Lower House elections last June. While she was not actually a candidate, she appeared prominently in their television commercials.

But the Republicans, who won eight percent of the vote then, so scorn the newly-created Upper House that they are not contesting this weekend's elections at all.

Ruzickova has borrowed her campaign slogan neither from the far-right nor from Marx, Engels or Lenin. Instead she has turned to

the Athenian philosopher Plato.

At a rally in Zatec, a historic but depressed town in the heart of Bohemia's hop country, she handed out autographed posters of herself, beaming from the passenger seat of a car. On the posters is the slogan: "Care About the Happiness of Others, Because That Is Where We Find Our Own Happiness."

Can anyone complain about that?

Some voters in Zatec certainly seemed to like her.

"We like her, her films are great fun," said one woman who brought along her two adolescent children to Ruzickova's rally in a Zatec theatre.

But she added that she would not vote in the elections on Friday and Saturday. "I do not understand politics," she said.

Zatec, 80 km (50 miles) north-west of Prague, is a lovely mediaeval town but also a very depressed place.

The hop industry is in steep decline with many Czech brewers buying cheaper foreign hops. Unemployment is 8.3 percent in

Zatec, almost three times the national average.

The Zatec constituency also covers Louny, a town of grey Communist apartment blocks and another unemployment black-spot.

Perhaps Ruzickova's appeals lies in providing an escape from the dreary lives of many in the post-Communist Czech Republic.

"I like Mrs. Ruzickova because she has a good heart and knows how to make fun. I will vote for her because she is kind," said 31-year-old Irena Jaremcukova at the rally.

Jaremcukova seemed to mirror Ruzickova's political change of color. In the June elections she voted for the Republicans led by doctor of philosophy Miroslav Sladek. "I voted for Mr. Sladek."

I think we need people like him," she said.

Sladek provoked uproar earlier this year by suggesting that all members of the Czech Republic's Gypsy minority, many of whom live in Zatec and Louny, should be jailed at birth.

But Jaremcukova admitted she knew nothing about Ruzickova's program and said she did not know what the Senate would do.

At the rally Ruzickova did not go out of her way to enlighten Jaremcukova or the rest of the audience.

After receiving flowers from well-wishers among the 200-strong audience, she settled into an armchair and started telling tales of her childhood.

The audience listened carefully, perhaps because Communist Deputy Kvetoslava Celisova had warned them up beforehand with a 20-minute monologue on the need to turn out on polling day.

Turning to issues, Ruzickova said she was involved in helping an orphanage and said culture, social matters, health care and education should be the top concerns of a Senator.

The Communists polled 10.3 percent in June. Local Party vice chairman Milan Pipal believes Ruzickova will at least make it to the second round run-off on November 22 and 23 when he expects her to face the candidate of the ruling odds.

Ruzickova was more coy about her prospects. "I don't know whether I will win. Let it be a surprise," she said.

ADVERTISE IN
IRAN NEWS

878 6477 - 877 1330

SPORTS NEWS



World Champion Hill Crashes in Tire Test for New Team

TOKYO (AFP) - Formula One world champion Damon Hill crashed heavily during his first test of Japanese tires for his new TWR Arrows team and cut short a two day stay at the Suzuka circuit.

Shaken but not hurt in Thursday's accident, the 36-year-old Briton flew home Friday morning instead of carrying out the second day of tests on the track near Nagoya.

Hill was driving a Ligier vehicle to test the new Bridgestone tires as TWR Arrows has not yet adapted a car for its new star driver.

The car span coming out of a hairpin bend and slammed into a barrier tail first. The front and rear tires and the suspension were badly damaged.

The son of late world champion Graham Hill, who was dumped by Williams despite his driver's crown, admitted to Japanese reporters that he was embarrassed by the incident.

Hill was quoted as saying that the accident was "quite shameful," he explained: "I was going slow to check radio communications. The tires got cold and lost grip." He said the track surface was cold because of the weather.

But team backers said the tires had performed well. "We have yielded great results. Damon himself has endorsed our tires as consistent in their performance," said Hirohide Hamashima, director of Bridgestone's tire development division.

The Japanese company will supply arrows and possibly other teams from the next season, breaking a five-year Formula One monopoly held by Goodyear.

Hill clocked 1min 40.14sec on the twisting 5.8-kilometer (3.6-mile) Suzuka Circuit, an average of about 211 kph (131 mph), but that highlighted the difficulties he will face with his new team.

Former Williams teammate Jacques Villeneuve set a time of 1:38.91 to take pole position for the Japanese Grand Prix last month, though local F3000 driver Kazuyoshi Hoshino said "Hill was shaving off his time lap after lap and he would have gone below 1:39 if he went on."

Hill won eight races in the 1996 season, just edging out F1 rookie Villeneuve, who won four races.

Arrows best performance in 18 years of Formula One racing was a second spot at the 1985 Italian Grand Prix.

NFL-Best Broncos Face High-Powered Foe

DENVER, COLORADO (AFP) - American Football fans here are on a Rocky Mountain high over the Denver Broncos, who carry the sport's best record into a showdown Sunday with the high-powered offense of New England.

Next to the Green Bay Packers, the Patriots (7-3) and Broncos (9-1) boast the National Football League's high-scoring offenses, both are division leaders and showcase top passers.

"We're both scoring a lot of points and I expect we are going to have to score some (great total) to win," New England quarterback Drew Bledsoe said. "With all the buildup, it will probably be a 10-7 game."

Bledsoe has completed 236 of 394 passes, both NFL highs, for 2,670 yards and 18 touchdowns while being intercepted only eight times. His favorite target, Ben Coates, has 45 catches for 514 yards and seven touchdowns.

"I look forward to this opportunity for the team to see where they stand," Bledsoe said. "We have been doing well lately and this is the opportunity to go up against the best."

That means Denver's John Elway, the veteran who has guided two of his trademark fourth-quarter rallies. Elway has completed 204 of 338 passes for 2,378 yards and 20 touchdowns with 11 interceptions.

"He is as consistent now as I have ever seen him," Denver coach Mike Shanahan said. "He probably can't throw it 75 or 80 yards like he used to but he is a better passer, more accurate."

Denver's Shannon Sharpe ranks third in the NFL in receiving and yardage with 64 catches for 878 yards and nine touchdowns. He is on pace to have the most productive season by any tight end in NFL history.

The Broncos also have the NFL's fourth-ranked defense and

a rushing game to help balance their overall offensive attack. Terrell Davis ranks second among NFL rushers with 218 carries for 1,055 yards.

"I'm not real quick. I don't have subtle moves," Davis said. "But I get the job done."

The Broncos have broken hearts here before, losing three prior Super Bowl bids. Now they are within reach again. But there is caution.

"Are we one of the elite teams?" Shanahan asked. "Yeah, if we show up on Sunday and play our football game, we can play with anybody."

That means matching up with the best teams in the National Conference, which has won every Super Bowl since 1984. Four of those clubs meet in two crucial games this week.

Reigning champion Dallas (6-4) plays host to Green Bay (8-2) on Monday in a showdown of the NFL's top defenses.

The Packers saw a five-game win streak end last week at Kansas City while the Cowboys, winners in five of their past six games, are coming off a 20-17 overtime triumph at long-time rival San Francisco.

Green Bay paces the League in scoring and total offense, paced by Brett Favre, who has thrown for 2,556 yards and a league-high 27 touchdowns.

Should the Cowboys win, they will move into a share of second place in the NFC East Division, one game behind the winner of Sunday's game between co-leaders Washington and Philadelphia.

Other games Sunday find Carolina at St. Louis, Chicago at Kansas City, Cincinnati at Buffalo, Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, New Orleans at Atlanta, Seattle at Detroit, the New York Jets at Indianapolis, Minnesota at Oakland, Tampa Bay at San Diego and the New York Giants at Arizona.



John Smoltz Texas Slugger Wins Top Honor

NEW YORK (AFP) - Juan Gonzalez, who led Texas to the first playoff berth in their 36-year history, edged Seattle's Alex Rodriguez to win baseball's American League Most Valuable Player award here Thursday.

The voting was among the closest ever for the honor, the last to be handed out by a media panel for the Major League baseball season.

Gonzalez, 27, edged 21-year-old Phenom Rodriguez 290-287 with controversial Albert Belle of Cleveland Indians third at 228. Gonzalez had 11 first-place votes to 10 for the Seattle shortstop and two for Belle.

The only closer AL MVP vote came when Joe Dimaggio of the New York Yankees edged Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox 202-201 in 1947.

Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. was fourth with 188 votes and four first-place votes. The lone remaining first-place vote went to Texas

catcher Ivan Rodriguez, who was 10th overall.

Gonzalez became the first outfielder to win the award since Oakland's Rickey Henderson in 1990. He hit .314 with 47 home runs and 144 runs batted in as the Rangers to the Western Division title.

Other AL honors went to New York's Derek Jeter as best rookie, Toronto's Pat Hentgen as best pitcher and managers Johnny Oates of Texas and Joe Torre of New York as manager of the year.

National League honors went to MVP Ken Caminiti of San Diego, top pitcher John Smoltz of Atlanta, top manager Bruce Bochy of San Diego and best rookie Todd Hollandsworth of Los Angeles.

Graf Makes a Winning Start in Title Defense

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA (AFP) - World number-one Steffi Graf, showing no sign of pain from the left knee injury that almost sidelined her, beat Amy Frazier of the United States 6-2, 6-1 as she opened her title defense at the \$450,000 WTA tournament here Thursday.

The 55-minute triumph was Graf's first match since the knee injury caused her to drop out of the semi-finals at Leipzig last month.

The injury, which has bothered Graf since Wimbledon, also kept her out of the European Indoor Open three weeks ago.

"I didn't serve as good as I wanted to," Graf said. "But what could I ask for? I haven't played a match for a long time. I barely practiced. I didn't even want to play this tournament."

"My doctors told me I've got to take off for a few days," she said. "I withdrew from the tournament on Friday, left for Florida, took a few days off. And I didn't hear until Sunday that I was still in the draw."

Graf, who had a first-round bye now plays 14th-ranked Chanda Rubin of the United States for a place in Saturday's semi-final.

Third-seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic beat experienced Lori McNeil of the United States 6-4, 7-5, and Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia continued her run by ousting American opponent Kimberly Po 6-4, 6-4.

England Notch Up Second Win

BATH, ENGLAND (AFP) - England beat China 3-2 for the second successive night here on Thursday to take a 2-0 lead in the six-match series.

The England victory came when Ian Pearson and James Anderson recovered from 7-13 down in the second game and saved four game points to win 15-7, 17-14 against Zhang Jun and Min Zhen Yu.

England's other victories came in the men's singles, where former European champion Darren Hall beat Cheng Wei 18-17 15-4, and in the men's doubles where Nick Ponting and Joanne Goode defeated Ji Xing-Peng and Liu Zhong 15-5, 8-15, 15-10.

Commonwealth women's doubles champions Goode and Joanne Muggeridge led 17-14 in the third game and held three match points, but they lost to Qian Hong and Liu Lu 6-15 15-9 18-17. The other Chinese success came in the women's singles where Liu Fang beat Muggeridge 2-11 4-11.

Thursday's result means China must win the third match in Boston on Friday to have any chance of winning the series.

High Court Refuses Appeal on Super League Verdict

SYDNEY (AFP) - Two rival Rugby League competitions are expected to proceed next season following Friday's high court refusal here to allow the Australian Rugby League to appeal News Ltd.'s recent federal court victory.

The high court was the establishment ARL's last avenue for appeal in the long-running battle for control of the game in Australia.

Justices John Toohey, Mary Gaudron and Bill Gummow took only a few minutes to dismiss the ARL's application.

Outlining the reasons for their decision, Toohey said the ARL's submission had not raised sufficient new grounds from those covered in the federal court appeal judgment handed down on October 4.

"On its face this does not seem to be a case likely to warrant special leave to appeal," the judge said.

Of the three main issues raised, he said the high court judges agreed all had either been covered by the full federal court judgment or were not relevant because of it.

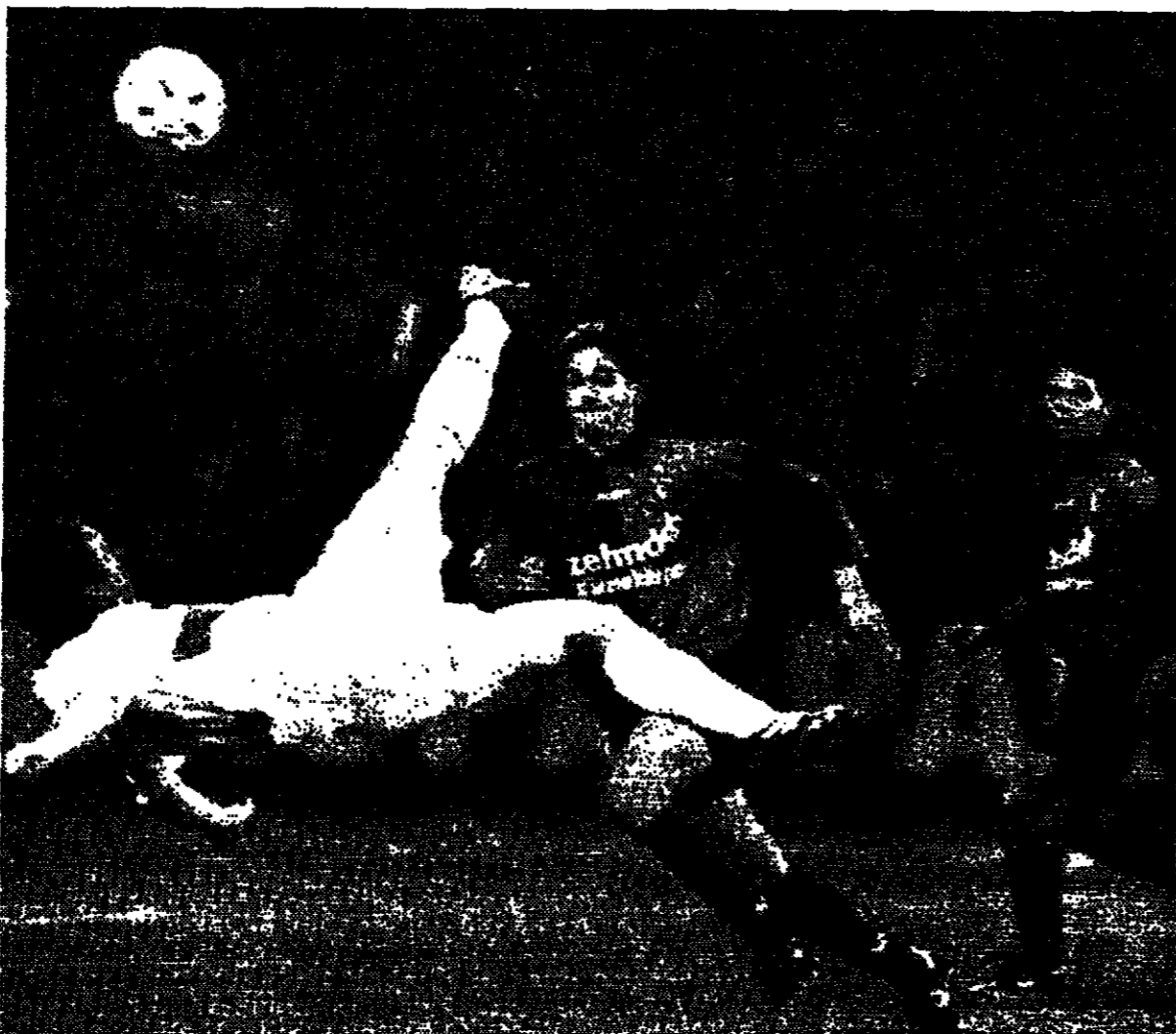
No prominent officials from either the ARL or the Rupert Murdoch-backed Super League were in court although several minor officials from both sides attended the hearing.

ARL national communications manager Geoff Carr said he was disappointed but conceded the matter was now over as far as the courts were concerned.

"It's just the same as before, everyone's set themselves for two competitions so it looks like there will be two competitions," Carr said.

The decision means all 37 orders which were handed down in favor of the ARL by Justice James Burchett in the original federal court case earlier this year but later overturned on appeal cannot now be reinstated.

The decision has also paved the way for the eight rebel clubs to break away from the ARL and play Super League next season.



FREIBURG, GERMANY: Stuttgart's Fredi Bobic (L) saves the ball from Freiburg's Dieter Frey with an overhead kick as Martin Sparring (R) looks on during their German DFB Cup match in Freiburg November 13.

(AFP Photo)